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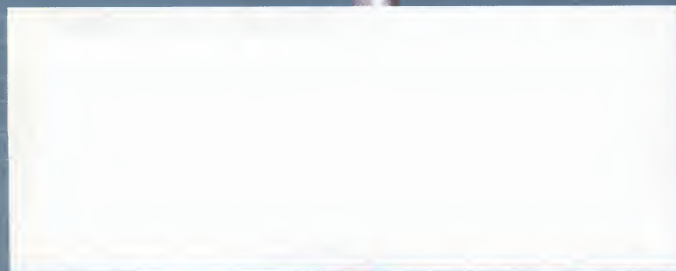
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Creative Labs 1373 Audio with 128 Voices

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Personalize by choosing:

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32 MB nVidia TNT2 M64 Pro Graphics

Creative Labs 1373 Audio with 128 Voices

56K ITU V.90 Modem³

JBL Platinum Speakers with Digital Audio Port

8X CD-RW Drive*

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16X DVD-ROM Drive²

32 MB nVidia TNT2 M64 Pro Graphics

Creative Labs 1373 Audio with 128 Voices

56K ITU V.90 Modem³

JBL Platinum Speakers with Digital Audio Port

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64 MB SyncDRAM

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with 8 MB Video Memory

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8X DVD-ROM Drive²

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with 8 MB Video Memory

56K ITU V.90 PCI Modem³

Integrated 10/100 BaseT Network Port

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20.0 GB UltraDMA Hard Drive¹
40X Max CD-ROM Drive²
8X CD-RW Drive⁴
2X AGP with 64-bit Hardware Accelerated 3D Graphics
ESS Allegro Integrated PCI Audio
56K ITU V.90 Modem³
JBL Platinum Speakers with Digital Audio Port
Compaq CV535 15" Monitor (13.8" VIA)

Personalize by choosing:

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WEB SURFER

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QuickAccess Code: 37X8X7-62257

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64 MB 100 MHz SyncDRAM — up to 11 MB Shared for Video
10.0 GB UltraDMA Hard Drive¹
40X Max CD-ROM Drive²
2X AGP with 64-bit Hardware Accelerated 3D Graphics
ESS Allegro Integrated PCI Audio
56K ITU V.90 Modem³
JBL Platinum Speakers with Digital Audio Port
Compaq CV535 15" Monitor (13.8" VIA)

Personalize by choosing:

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12.1" TFT Active Matrix Display
64 MB SyncDRAM
6.0 GB UltraDMA Hard Drive¹
CD-RW Drive⁴
Trident CyberBlade Hardware Accelerated 3D Graphics
56K ITU V.90 PCI Modem³
Ultra Hi-Capacity Lilon Battery
128 KB Integrated "On-chip" Cache
MyStyle Accent Kit

Personalize by choosing:

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13.3" TFT Panel: Add \$100
10.0 GB UltraDMA Hard Drive¹: Add \$100

WEB SURFER

PRESARIO 1200T-533

\$999⁺

As low as \$28 per month¹

QuickAccess Code: 37X8X7-6212X

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32 MB SyncDRAM
5.0 GB UltraDMA Hard Drive¹
24X Max CD-ROM Drive²
Trident CyberBlade Hardware Accelerated 3D Graphics
56K ITU V.90 PCI Modem³
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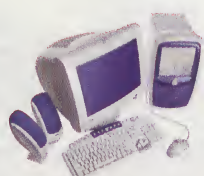
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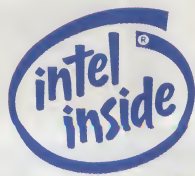
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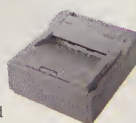
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- Lithium Battery
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Viewsonic 19" monitor \$450⁰⁰

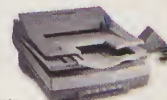


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- One year limited warranty in the US and Canada

Kodak DC290 Digital Camera \$687⁷⁵

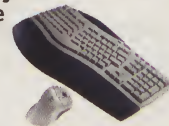
3X Optical/Zoom



- 3X Optical plus 2X Digital Zoom
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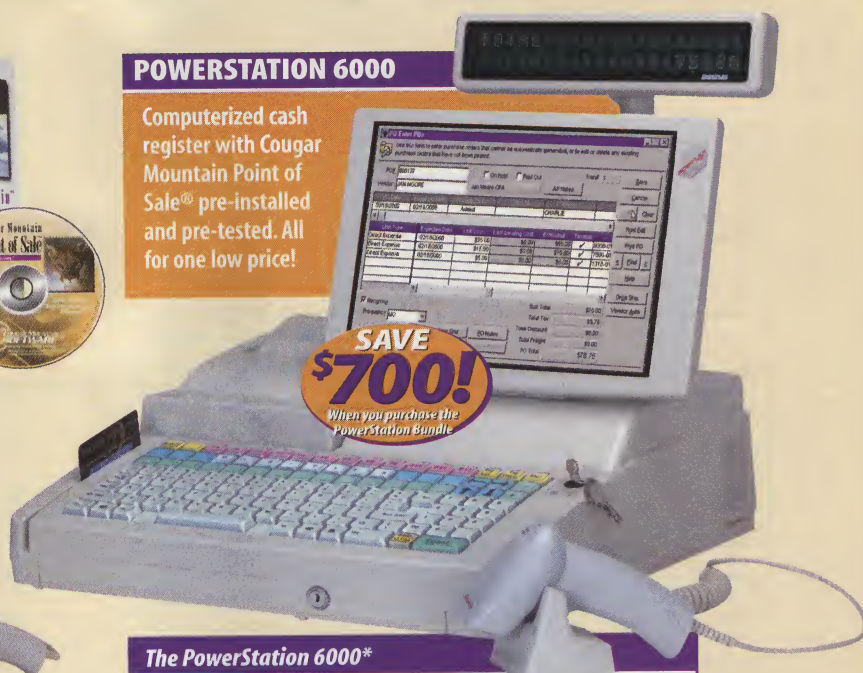
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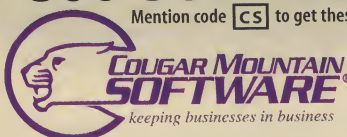
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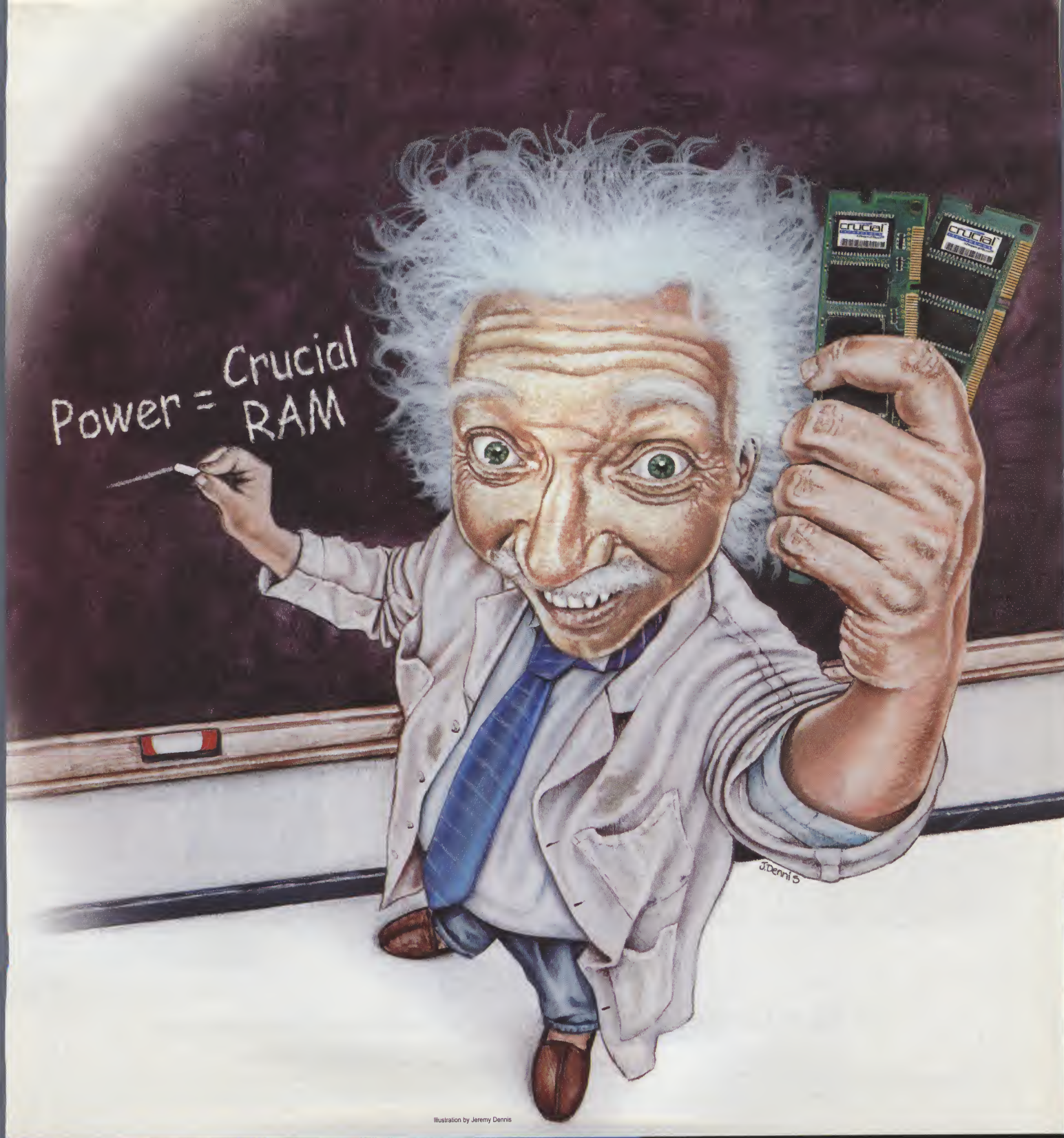


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Free ISPs get you to the Net for no money, but you'll give up a chunk of screen real estate, some personal info, and often your surfing privacy. Find out which ones "cost" the least.

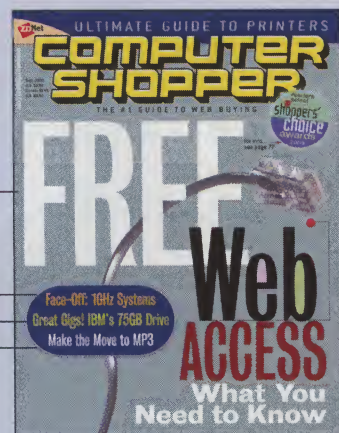


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best buys

INTRODUCING! Top Shopping Sites

Starting this month, we pick the best places to buy in our Best Site Awards. Also, let Computer Shopper's editors help you select the greatest desktop computers, PC peripherals, mobile gear, software, and games. 72



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PLUS Wish you were whale-watching? Fantasizing about fall foliage? Plan a getaway on the Web with our guide to autumn travel bargains.

business buyer



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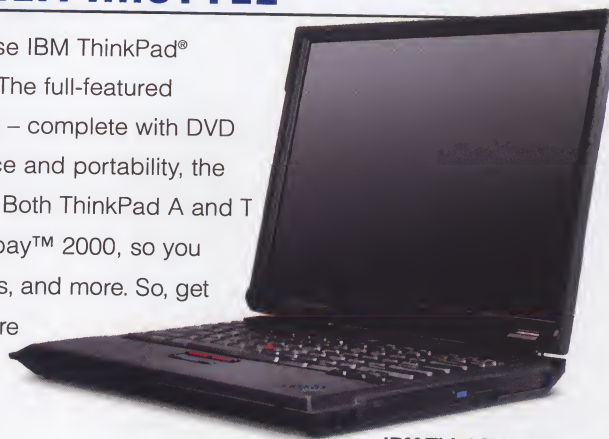
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JANICE CHEN



Get It While It's Free

Remember the good old days when TV was free? You'd turn on the set, choose your show, and never pay a cent besides the electric bill. Sure, you'd only get a handful of stations and couldn't fast-forward or channel-surf during commercials, but who'd complain about sitting through a couple of ads when the service was free? That's what many Internet service providers are hoping you'll say about surfing the Web today.

It seems as though practically everything can be had online for free these days: e-mail, hard disk space, long-distance phone calls, even operating systems and application software. (See my August column for my favorite Palm

application, which you can get online for—you guessed it—free!) The *pièce de résistance* of the Web-freebie world, though, is getting Internet access itself gratis. And we're not talking piddling slow connections. Free ISPs typically offer 56Kbps service, and some of them even offer broadband DSL connections.

This free service does come at a price, though. You pay for it with "mindshare," whether actively (by filling in surveys and providing personal information) or passively (by watching advertising and allowing your Web-surfing habits to be monitored). Our cover story, "Freedom Has Its Price," examines 10 free ISPs—including two offering DSL connections. Turn to p. 188 to learn about the trade-offs and to find out which services are the most reliable.

As with television before it, the freebie days of the Internet may be limited. In fact, while we worked on our story, two free-access providers went out of business. Banner advertising alone can't support free services. (Case in point: We can watch hundreds of channels filled with advertising, yet still pay a bundle for premium cable and digital satellite TV these days.) With venture capital and IPO dollars disappear-

ing faster than you can say "free lunch," only the savviest Net companies will be able to continue offering free services—by gaining revenue from sources like corporate licensing, leveraging advertising, or forging commerce partnerships. You'll find two examples of such services—iHarvest and HyperOffice—in our Reviews section on p. 146. HyperOffice is a full-fledged Web-based office suite that's fast enough to use over a modem; iHarvest is a Web-based information manager that lets you clip, save, store, highlight, and sort Web content.

One thing you may always be able to get for free on the Web is music—the Recording Industry Association of America notwithstanding. But what if you want to take it with you? Read this month's Tune-Up article on p. 280 for a primer on setting up and using a portable MP3 player.

Of course, there are still plenty of products available on the Internet worth paying real money for. To help you locate the best places to shop for them, we've introduced our editor's-pick Best Site Awards. Turn to our Best Buys list on p. 72 to find out which shopping sites earned honors this month, and don't miss the reviews of these and other sites in our Web Buyer section on p. 200. Also new in Web Buyer is a regular preview of seasonal shopping sites.

This issue, we cover Net destinations that offer great autumn travel deals, whether you're looking for fall-foliage photo ops, planning a last-minute Labor Day weekend getaway, or seeking whale-watching voyages in New England (p. 199).



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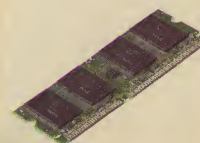
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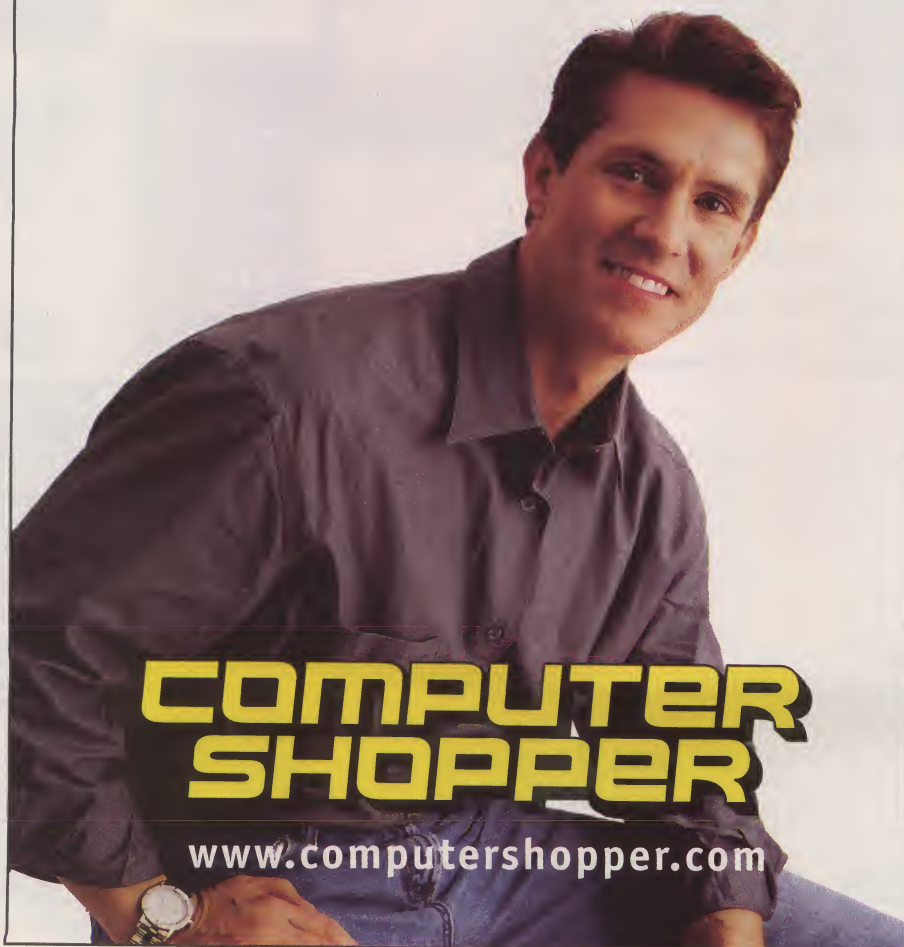
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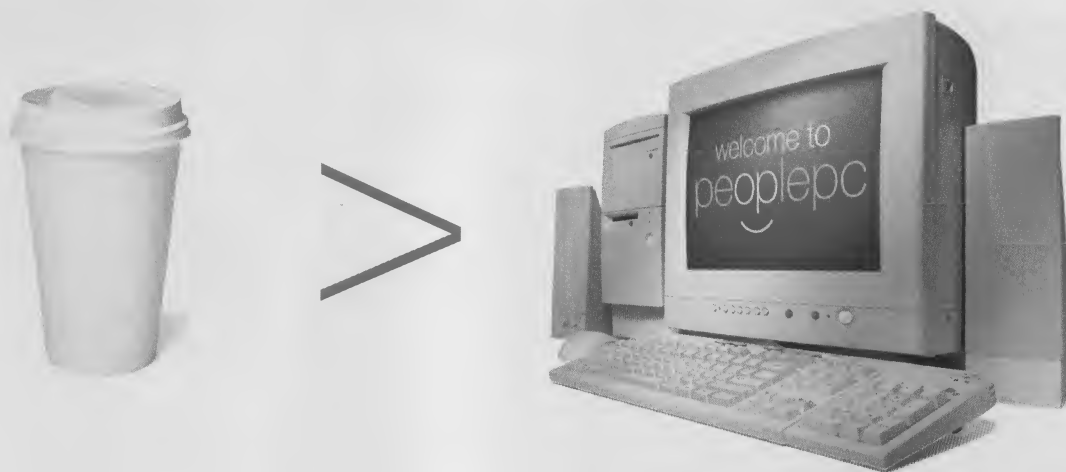
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- 8X4X32 CD-ReWritable Drive
- 19" .26mm DP 1600x1200 Color Monitor, MPR II
- Upgrade to ViewSonic 19" .26mm DP Monitor @ \$75
- Creative Labs SoundBlaster PCI128 Sound Card & Mic
- Labtec LCW-2414 Subwoofer Speaker System
- USR 56K V.90 Data/Fax/Voice WinModem
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive, High Speed I/O Ports: 25, I.P, I.G, 2USB
- ABS™ Internet Keyboard & ABS™ NetScroll Mouse
- Microsoft Windows '98 Second Edition
- Free Software: Corel WordPerfect Office 2000 CD
- Free Software: Grolier's Encyclopedia CD & Norton AntiVirus CD
- ★ Optional One-Year Supreme Onsite Service \$29

667MHz	Intel® Pentium® III Processor	
	\$1389	#9085
733MHz	\$1439	866MHz \$1759
	#9084	#9082
800MHz	\$1579	933MHz \$1939
	#9083	#9081

ABS™ SUPREME DVD I

- ★ Computer Shopper Best Buy -May, Nov 1999
- 256MB Fast SDRAM Memory
- 30GB Ultra DMA66 Hard Drive
- 10X DVD-ROM
- Digital Color Internet Camera
- 8X4X32 CD-ReWriter Drive
- Nvidia GeForce II MX 32MB SDR 128Bits 4X AGP
- 19" .26mm DP 1600x1200 Color Monitor, MPR II
- Creative Labs SoundBlaster Live! Value Sound Card & Mic
- Cambridge SoundWorks FPS2000 Digital Surround Sound
- USR 56K V.90 Data/Fax/Voice WinModem
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive, High Speed I/O Ports: 25, I.P, I.G, 2USB
- MS Internet Keyboard w/ key web access & MS IntelliMouse
- Microsoft Windows '98 Second Edition
- Free Grolier's Encyclopedia CD & Norton AntiVirus CD
- Free Software: Corel WordPerfect Office 2000 CD
- ★ Optional One-Year Supreme Onsite Service \$29

667MHz	Intel® Pentium® III Processor	
	\$1829	#9115
733MHz	\$1899	866MHz \$2199
	#9114	#9112
800MHz	\$2019	933MHz \$2379
	#9113	#9111

ABS™ PERFORMANCE ALPHA

- ★ Computer Shopper Best Buy -May 2000
- 256MB Fast SDRAM Memory
- 30GB Ultra DMA66 Hard Drive
- New 16X DVD-ROM
- 8X4X32 CD-ReWritable Drive
- Nvidia GeForce II GTS 32MB DDR 4X AGP
- Upgrade to Nvidia GeForce II GTS w/64MB DDR 4X AGP @ \$69
- 19" .26mm DP 1600x1200 Color Monitor, MPR II
- Creative Labs SoundBlaster Live! Value Sound Card & Mic
- Cambridge SoundWorks FPS2000 Surround Sound System
- USR PCI Hardware 56K V.90 Data/Fax/Voice Modem
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive, High Speed I/O Ports: 25, I.P, I.G, 2USB
- ABS™ Internet Keyboard w/ easy Internet access keys & NetScroll Mouse
- Microsoft Windows '98 Second Edition
- Free Software: Corel WordPerfect Office 2000 CD
- Free Software: Grolier's Encyclopedia CD & Norton AntiVirus CD
- ★ Optional One-Year Supreme Onsite Service \$29

667MHz	Intel® Pentium® III Processor	
	\$1969	#9145
733MHz	\$2019	866MHz \$2339
	#9144	#9142
800MHz	\$2159	933MHz \$2519
	#9143	#9141

ABS™ ALL U CAN SYSTEM

- 128MB Fast SDRAM Memory
- 40GB Ultra DMA66 Hard Drive
- New 16X DVD-ROM
- 12X10X32 CD-ReWritable Drive
- Creative WebCam Go Portable Camera
- New ATI All-in-Wonder Pro 32MB 4X AGP w/TV Tuner & TV-in/Out
- 19" .26mm DP 1600x1200 Color Monitor, MPR II
- Upgrade to PF790 .25DP "Perfect Flat" Monitor @ \$289
- Creative Labs SoundBlaster Live! Platinum Sound Card & Mic
- Cambridge SoundWorks Desktop Theater 5.1 DTT2500
- USR PCI Hardware 56K V.90 Data/Fax/Voice Modem
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive, High Speed I/O Ports: 25, I.P, I.G, 2USB
- New MS Natural KeyboardPro & MS IntelliMouse
- Microsoft Windows '98 Second Edition
- Corel WordPerfect Office 2000 & Norton AntiVirus CD
- Add Epson Stylus 670 Color Inkjet Printer @ \$89
- ★ Optional One-Year Supreme Onsite Service \$29

667MHz	Intel® Pentium® III Processor	
	\$2179	#9175
733MHz	\$2229	866MHz \$2549
	#9174	#9172
800MHz	\$2369	933MHz \$2729
	#9173	#9171

ABS™ SUPREME DVD 3

- ★ Computer Shopper Best Buy -Dec 1999
- 128MB Fast SDRAM Memory
- 20GB Ultra DMA66 Hard Drive
- 10X DVD-ROM
- 19" .26mm DP 1600x1200 Color Monitor, MPR II
- Nvidia TNT2 M64 w/32MB AGP Video Card
- OpenGL, DirectX, Direct 3D Support
- Creative Labs Ensoniq WaveTable 3D Sound Card & Mic
- Altec Lansing ACS45.2 Stereo Speaker System w/Powered Subwoofer
- USR PCI 56K V.90 Data/Fax/Voice WinModem
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive, High Speed I/O Ports: 25, I.P, I.G, 2USB
- ABS™ Internet Keyboard & ABS™ NetScroll Mouse
- Microsoft Windows '98 Second Edition
- Free Software: Corel WordPerfect Office 2000 CD
- Free Software: Grolier's Encyclopedia CD & Norton AntiVirus CD
- ★ Optional One-Year Supreme Onsite Service \$29

667MHz	Intel® Pentium® III Processor	
	\$1339	#9125
733MHz	\$1389	866MHz \$1699
	#9124	#9122
800MHz	\$1529	933MHz \$1889
	#9123	#9121

ABS™ PERFORMANCE 1

- 256MB Fast SDRAM Memory
- 40GB Ultra DMA66 Hard Drive
- New 16X DVD-ROM
- 12X10X32 CD-ReWritable Drive
- Digital Color Internet Camera
- New Nvidia GeForce II GTS w/64MB DDR 4X AGP w/TV-Out
- 19" .26mm DP 1600x1200 Color Monitor, MPR II
- Creative Labs SoundBlaster Live! Platinum Sound Card & Mic
- Cambridge SoundWorks FPS2000 Surround Sound System
- USR PCI Hardware 56K V.90 Data/Fax/Voice Modem
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive, High Speed I/O Ports: 25, I.P, I.G, 2USB
- MS Natural KeyboardPro & MS IntelliMouse
- Microsoft Windows '98 Second Edition
- Free Grolier's Encyclopedia CD & Norton AntiVirus
- Free Software: Corel WordPerfect Office 2000 CD
- ★ Optional One-Year Supreme Onsite Service \$29

667MHz	Intel® Pentium® III Processor	
	\$2299	#9155
733MHz	\$2359	866MHz \$2669
	#9154	#9152
800MHz	\$2499	933MHz \$2849
	#9153	#9151

ABS™ SUPREME 3D SYSTEM 2

- 128MB Fast SDRAM Memory
- 20GB Ultra DMA66 Hard Drive
- Creative 52X CD-ROM Drive
- Upgrade to 10X DVD ROM @ \$79
- Intel Integrated AGP Graphics
- Upgrade to Nvidia TNT2 M64 w/32MB AGP Card @ \$69
- 17" .27mm DP 1280x1024 Color Monitor, MPR II
- Creative CT5880 Integrated PCI Sound
- Labtec LCW-2414 Subwoofer Speaker System
- ZOOM 56K V.90 Data/Fax/Voice Modem & Mic
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive, High Speed I/O Ports: 25, I.P, I.G, 4USB
- ABS™ Keyboard & ABS™ NetScroll Mouse
- Microsoft Windows '98 Second Edition
- Free Grolier's Encyclopedia CD & Norton AntiVirus CD
- Free Software: Corel WordPerfect Office 2000 CD
- 8X4X32 CD-ReWritable Drive @ \$179
- ★ Optional One-Year Supreme Onsite Service \$29

533MHz	Intel® Celeron™ Processor w/128KB Cache	
	\$939	#9029
600MHz	\$979	633MHz \$999
	#9028	#9027
667MHz	\$1099	733MHz \$1159
	#9025	#9024

ABS™ MULTIMEDIA SYSTEM 6

- ★ CNet Editor's Choice -Jan 2000
- 64MB Fast SDRAM Memory
- 10GB Ultra Hard Drive
- 10X DVD-ROM Drive
- ATI Xpert98 8MB AGP Video Card
- 1600x1200x16.7 Million Color
- 15" Color 1024x768Max Monitor
- Upgrade to 17" .27mm DP 1280x1024 Monitor @ \$79
- Creative Labs Ensoniq WaveTable 3D Sound Card & Mic
- Labtec LCS-1050 Powered Stereo Speakers
- ZOOM 56K V.90 Data/Fax/Voice Modem
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive, High Speed I/O Ports: 25, I.P, I.G, 2USB
- ABS™ Keyboard & ABS™ NetScroll Mouse
- Microsoft Windows '98 Second Edition
- Free Grolier's Encyclopedia CD & Norton AntiVirus CD
- Free Software: Corel WordPerfect Office 2000 CD
- ★ Optional One-Year Supreme Onsite Service \$29

533MHz	Intel® Celeron™ Processor w/128KB Cache	
	\$829	#9069
600MHz	\$869	633MHz \$899
	#9068	#9067
667MHz	\$969	733MHz \$1029
	#9065	#9064



#1 Aug 2000 Best Buy



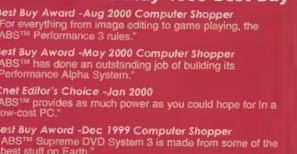
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#3 Dec 1999 Best Buy



#4 Nov 1999 Best Buy



#5 May 1999 Best Buy

Best Buy Award -Aug 2000 Computer Shopper
"For everything from image editing to game playing, the ABS™ Performance 3 rules."

Best Buy Award -May 2000 Computer Shopper
"ABS™ has done an outstanding job of building its Performance Alpha System."

Cnet Editor's Choice -Jan 2000
"ABS™ provides as much power as you could hope for in a low-cost PC."

Best Buy Award -Dec 1999 Computer Shopper
"ABS™ Supreme DVD System 3 is made from some of the best stuff on Earth."

Best Buy Award -Nov 1999 Computer Shopper
"If there ever was too much of a good thing, the ABS™ Supreme DVD-1 is it."

Best Buy Award -May 1999 Computer Shopper
"Low price and excellent service and support."

PC World Top 5 Power Home PC -Jan 2000
"ABS™ ABS-Can System 1 lives up to its name."

PC World Top 5 Midrange Home PC -July 2000
"ABS™ Multimedia System 1 pumped out good-looking 3D images and excellent sound."

Computer Buyer's Guide Best Buy -Feb 2000
"The 3D-I-GS is a capable system. It is ideal for both home and SOHO users."

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- 128MB ECC Fast SDRAM Memory
- 15GB 7200rpm Ultra ATA HD
- Dual Intel® Pentium® III Processors
- 128MB ECC Fast SDRAM Memory
- 15GB 7200rpm Ultra ATA HD

700MHz **\$1799** #9871

Bus. Leases starting at \$70/MO. (36-MO.)

Intel® ISP 2150 2U Rack Server

- Dual Intel® Pentium® III Processors
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- 9GB Ultra2Wide SCSI 7200rpm HD
- Dual Intel® Pentium® III Processors
- 128MB ECC Fast SDRAM Memory
- 9GB Ultra2Wide SCSI 7200rpm HD

700MHz **\$2329** #9875

Bus. Leases starting at \$96/MO. (36-MO.)

- Intel Astor II Server Chassis
- Five Ultra2 SCSI Hot-Swap Drive Bays
 - Two fans support five 10K RPM Hard Drives
 - Extensive International Safety and EMC regulatory approvals
 - 300Watts (sustained) Power Supply
 - Advanced Four Fans Cooling System
 - Easy access design

- Intel Cabrillo-C Server Chassis
- Six Ultra2 SCSI Hot-Swap Drive Bays
 - Four fans support six 10K RPM Hard Drives
 - Extensive International Safety and EMC regulatory approvals
 - 400Watts (sustained) Power Supply
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 - Easy access design

ABS™ MONSTRA™ SB SERVER Small Business

- Intel® L440GX Server Board
- (Dual Processor Upgradable)
- 128MB ECC Fast SDRAM Memory
- 9GB 7200rpm Ultra2Wide SCSI
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- Integrated EtherExpress Pro+ 10/100
- Integrated SCSI Dual Channel Ultra/Wide and Ultra/Narrow SCSI Controller
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive, High Speed I/O Ports: 25, 1P, 2USB
- ABS™ Keyboard & ABS™ NetScroll Mouse
- Intel® Astor II Server Chassis
- w/5 Hot-Swap Drive Bays w/2 Fans
- Optional Microsoft NT Server 4.0 w/10 Client Access @ \$525
- Optional UPS APC 1000 @ \$500
- Red Hat Linux w/Apache Web Server

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700MHz **\$1699** #9851
Bus. Leases starting at \$66/MO. (36-MO.)
750MHz \$1739 #9852
800MHz \$1779 #9853

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- 9GB 7200rpm Ultra2Wide SCSI & 52X CD-ROM Drive
- Integrated 2MB SGRAM Video
- Integrated EtherExpress Pro+ 10/100
- Integrated SCSI Dual Channel Ultra/Wide and Ultra/Narrow SCSI Controller
- Adaptec RAID Controller w/ CIO Management Software
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive, High Speed I/O Ports: 25, 1P, 2USB
- ABS™ Keyboard & ABS™ NetScroll Mouse
- Intel® Astor II Server Chassis w/5 Hot-Swap Drive Bays w/2 Fans
- Optional Microsoft NT Server 4.0 w/10 Client Access @ \$525
- Optional RAID 1 w/One Extra 9GB SCSI U2W HD @ \$250
- Optional RAID 5 w/Two Extra 9GB SCSI U2W HD @ \$500
- Red Hat Linux w/Apache Web Server

Intel® Pentium® III Processor
700MHz **\$2239** #9861
Bus. Leases starting at \$87/MO. (36-MO.)
750MHz \$2269 #9862
800MHz \$2309 #9863

ABS™ MONSTRA™ ET SERVER Enterprise

- Intel® C440GX+ Server Board
- (Dual Processor Upgradable)
- 256MB ECC Fast SDRAM Memory
- 9GB 7200rpm Ultra2Wide SCSI & 52X CD-ROM Drive
- Integrated 2MB SGRAM Video
- Integrated EtherExpress Pro+ 10/100
- Integrated SCSI Dual Channel Ultra/Wide and Ultra/Narrow SCSI Controller
- Adaptec RAID Controller 133U2 w/CIO Management Software
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive, High Speed I/O Ports: 25, 1P, 2USB
- ABS™ Keyboard & ABS™ NetScroll Mouse
- Intel® Cabrillo-C Server Chassis w/5 Hot-Swap Drive Bays w/2 Fans
- Optional Microsoft NT Server 4.0 w/10 Client Access @ \$525
- Optional RAID 1 w/One Extra 9GB SCSI U2W HD @ \$250
- Optional RAID 5 w/Two Extra 9GB SCSI U2W HD @ \$500
- Red Hat Linux w/Apache Web Server

Intel® Pentium® III Processor
550MHz **\$4139** #9870
Bus. Leases starting at \$155/MO. (36-MO.)

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- 256MB Fast SDRAM Memory
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- 12X10X32 CD-ReWritable Drive
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- 19" 26mm DP 1600x1200 Color Monitor, MPR II
- Creative Labs SoundBlaster Live! Value Sound Card & Mic
- Altec Lansing ACS45.2 Stereo Speakers w/Subwoofer
- USB PCI Hardware 56K V.90 Data/Fax/Voice Modem
- 3Com 10/100 PCI Network Card--Broadband Ready
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive, High Speed I/O Ports: 25, 1P, 1G, 2USB
- MS Natural KeyboardPro & MS IntelliMouse
- Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional
- Add Microsoft Office Pro @ \$349
- * Optional One-Year Supreme Onsite Service \$29

Intel® Pentium® III Processor
733MHz **\$2239** #9821
Bus. Leases starting at \$90/MO. (36-MO.)
800MHz \$2379 #9822
933MHz \$2739 #9824

ABS™ POWER WORKSTATION

- 128MB Fast SDRAM Memory
- 30GB Ultra DMA66 Hard Drive
- 16X DVD-ROM
- 8X4X32 CD-ReWriter Drive
- Nvidia GeForce II MX 32MB SDR 128Bits 4X AGP
- 19" 26mm DP 1600x1200 Color Monitor, MPR II
- Creative Labs SoundBlaster Live! Value Sound Card & Mic
- Labtec 2414 Stereo Speakers w/Subwoofer
- USB 56K V.90 Data/Fax/Voice WinModem
- 3Com 10/100 PCI Network Card--Broadband Ready
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive, High Speed I/O Ports: 25, 1P, 1G, 2USB
- MS Internet Keyboard w/1 key web access & MS IntelliMouse
- Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional
- Add Microsoft Office SBE @ \$199
- * Optional One-Year Supreme Onsite Service \$29

Intel® Pentium® III Processor
667MHz **\$1699** #9830
Bus. Leases starting at \$68/MO. (36-MO.)
800MHz \$1889 #9832
866MHz \$2059 #9833

ABS™ BUSINESS WORKSTATION

- 64MB Fast SDRAM Memory
- 20GB Ultra DMA66 Hard Drive
- 10X DVD-ROM
- 17" 27mm DP 1280x1024 Color Monitor, MPR II
- Nvidia TNT2 M64 w/32MB AGP Video Card
- OpenGL, DirectX, Direct 3D Support
- Creative Labs Ensoniq WaveTable 3D Sound Card & Mic
- Labtec 1050 Stereo Speakers
- USB PCI 56K V.90 Data/Fax/Voice WinModem
- 10/100 PCI Network Card--Broadband Ready
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive, High Speed I/O Ports: 25, 1P, 1G, 2USB
- ABS™ Internet Keyboard & ABS™ NetScroll Mouse
- Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional
- Add Microsoft Works Suite @ \$89
- * Optional One-Year Supreme Onsite Service \$29

Intel® Pentium® III Processor
667MHz **\$1149** #9840
Bus. Leases starting at \$45/MO. (36-MO.)
733MHz \$1199 #9841
800MHz \$1339 #9842

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What is 3Com Connected™ Systems?

The 3Com Connected logo on the system you buy means the world's most reliable, best performing NIC, PC Card, or modem are built right in. 3Com Connected systems by ABS™ have the best connections to networks, the Internet, or online services, so you and your family spend less time getting connected and more time being connected.

Why 3Com Connected Systems?

Having a 3Com network interface card/modem/PC Card in your ABS™ Conquest Desktop ensures that you're getting successful connections to a network and the Internet from the world's most popular choice for PC connectivity solutions. The 3Com Connected logo on ABS™ PCs means successful connections with the best, most popular, and compatible network interface cards/modems/PC cards.

Save time with 3Com Connected Systems from ABS™, there's no need to buy, install, and configure extra hardware for a successful connection to your network/the Internet.

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ABS™ desktop systems with pre-installed 3Com NICs give you the power of Parallel Tasking® performance for the world's fastest data transfers across your networks! ABS™ systems with pre-installed 3Com modems bring you features such as V.90 support for 56K transfers, full-duplex speakerphone, Caller ID and Call Waiting support, and Flash easy upgrades to higher performance.

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- DynamicWaveable Stereo Sound
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- ABS™ Keyboard & ABS™ NetScroll Mouse
- Microsoft Windows 98 Second Edition
- Optional 15" 28DP Color Monitor @ \$140
- Optional 56K V.90 Fax Modem @ \$35
- Optional 10/100 Ethernet Card @ \$25
- * Optional One-Year Supreme Onsite Service \$29

Intel® Celeron™ Processor w/128KB Cache
500MHz **\$579** #9810
Bus. Leases starting at \$22/MO. (36-MO.)
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- 2X AGP 4MB ATI RAGE Mobility™-P 3D* Video
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- Microsoft® Office 2000 Small Business
- Microsoft® Windows® 98, Second Edition
- 3-Yr NBD On-site Service*

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05854-890819


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DELL™ INSPIRON™ 5000

Performance and Mobility Notebook

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- 32MB SDRAM; 6GB* Ultra ATA HD
- Modular 24X Max Variable CD-ROM/
Floppy Drive
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI RAGE Mobility™-P 3D* Video
- 52Whr Lithium Ion Battery
- Microsoft® Office 2000 Small Business
- Microsoft® Windows® 98, Second Edition
- 3-Yr NBD On-site Service*

\$2229  **E-VALUE CODE**
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BUSINESS LEASE: \$78/MO., 36 MOS.†

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DELL™ LATITUDE™ CPI

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- Modular 24X Max CD-ROM/Floppy Drive
- Microsoft® Windows® 98, Second Edition
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BUSINESS LEASE: \$52/MO., 36 MOS.†

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DELL™ NOTEBOOKS:

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Mobile Desktop Notebook

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 600MHz
- 15" Super XGA+ Active Matrix Display
- 32MB SDRAM; 6GB⁵ Ultra ATA HD
- Removable Combo 24X Max Variable CD-ROM/Floppy Drive
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI RAGE Mobility™-P 3D[®] Video
- Microsoft® Office 2000 Small Business
- Microsoft® Windows® 98, Second Edition
- 3-Yr NBD On-site Service⁴

\$2379  **E-VALUE CODE**
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BUSINESS LEASE: \$83/MO., 36 MOS.¹¹

- Removable 8X DVD-ROM Drive, add \$149
- Ask about MS® Windows® Millennium Edition

DELL™ INSPIRON™ 7500

Mobile Desktop Notebook

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 700MHz
- 15" Super XGA+ Active Matrix Display
- 32MB SDRAM; 6GB⁵ Ultra ATA HD
- Removable Combo 24X Max Variable CD-ROM/Floppy Drive
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI RAGE Mobility™-P 3D[®] Video
- Microsoft® Office 2000 Small Business
- Microsoft® Windows® 98, Second Edition
- 3-Yr NBD On-site Service⁴

\$2629  **E-VALUE CODE**
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BUSINESS LEASE: \$92/MO., 36 MOS.¹¹

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SAVED A LOT WITH BOTS

When shopping the Internet for the Matrox Marvel G400TV video card, I was consistently running into \$300 price tags. Then I decided to try some of the shopping bots mentioned in your May feature "Battle of the Bots" (p. 180) and was surprised to find the card for as little as \$259! I would never have known to use these bots had it not been for your magazine. Thanks for helping me save a bundle of money.

DAVID M. SCHEETZ

TAKE A DRIVE

I disagree with what John R. Quain said in his July notebook review, "In With the Thin Crowd" (p. 121). In reviewing the Toshiba Portégé 7200CT, he stated, "If you want to play music, watch a movie, or even just load some software, you'll need the optional DVD Network Dock II station, which costs a whopping \$649."

That is not entirely true. Notebook users have several other options. DVD, CD-ROM, CD-R, CD-RW, and Zip drives are all available from several manufacturers in both USB and PC Card formats. For less than \$200, Portégé 7200 users can have a CD-ROM with either connection format. If they happen to use Windows NT and cannot take advantage of a USB port, a PC Card interface will work just fine. I've had a PC Card CD-ROM drive for more than six months, and so far I haven't had any problems.

MIKE BLEVINS

THE JOY OF RIGGIN' IT

As a Computer Shopper subscriber, I regularly enjoy your informative articles. I particularly liked your May Tune-Up article, "Now That's Entertainment!" (p. 278), which described how to build an

ultimate video system from scratch. Maybe one day you guys could do one on enabling your PC to handle digital-audio editing. It would be great to transfer all my cassette tapes and LPs over to CDs.

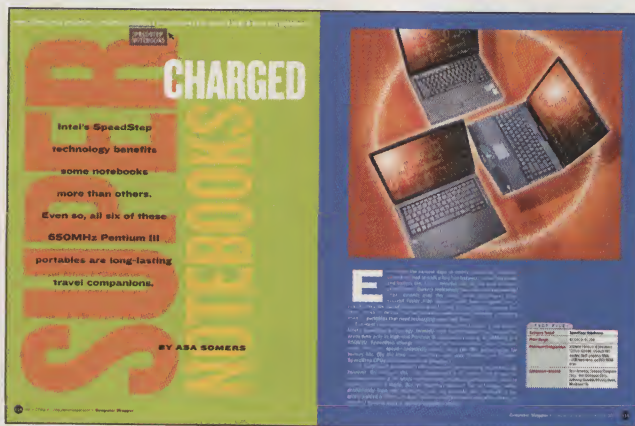
ALARIC BLACK

DELL SCREEN SATISFACTION

The July feature "Supercharged Notebooks" (p. 154) stated that "Adjusting [the Dell Inspiron 5000's screen] to a lower resolution makes the picture out of focus." I have owned the same Inspiron notebook you reviewed for three months now, and yes, for most applications I set the resolution back to 1,024x768. But that beautiful screen out of focus? I don't think so. Mine sure isn't.

As a neophyte to computers, I relied heavily upon magazine articles in reaching my purchasing decision. In the end, Dell's reputation and warranty won out—and I'm certainly glad I bought the notebook, no matter what your findings were.

BILL MACPHAIL



PICKY ON PIXELS

In my opinion, none of the cameras you tested in the July digital-camera roundup, "Picture This" (p. 168), qualifies as a good all-around digicam. That's primarily because their telephoto ranges are too confining. My ideal camera's lens needs to get up into the 200mm to 300mm range, and should still have good macro capability. You also want one with a true optical zoom, not just digital.

I'd also want to have the option of choosing a full manual mode. Olympus is known for being a control-button horror show, and the Toshiba and Nikon cameras aren't far behind.

I've found the Sony Mavica series to be pretty good, but they're a bit pricey, especially considering that you're paying for a device that's still clunky.

FRED HUME

< COMING NEXT MONTH >

Travel Light

Traveling is stressful enough without the added aggravation of hauling around a hefty notebook. We gather the latest in ultra-portable notebooks and put them to the test to find out which of these sleek bantamweights will make you the ultimate road warrior.

Scanning With Sophistication

The new crop of CCD scanners are easier than ever to use. We'll look at the latest flatbed scanners for your home or small office. With their USB connectivity, high resolutions, and shrinking footprints, these devices make feeding high-quality images into your PC duh-simple, and affordable, too.

Dialing Without Dollars

Communicating by e-mail is certainly convenient, but the human voice can convey so much more. See how voice over IP technology promises to let you phone anyone on the Web without having to worry about costly long-distance phone charges.

Home Sweet E-Homes

Whether you dream of a four-story brownstone, a studio apartment, or a split-level ranch like the one in which the Brady Bunch lived, using the Web to search for a new home can be effective and convenient. We'll tell you how to find the right site to match your home-search needs, and how to make the best use of online real-estate features.

NETWORK ROADBLOCK

Thanks for the interesting Tune-Up article "Networking Your Home" (July, p. 276). My take on the whole issue is that home networking with HomePNA will be much more realistic when phone-line-to-Ethernet bridges become widely available.

For instance, because my basement is unfinished, I was able to set up an Ethernet network throughout my first floor and connect it to a hub downstairs. After two months of paying for three accounts from @Home's cable modem ISP, I bought one router from Netgear and now have Internet access for up to 32 PCs—all for the price of one account. However, while I have two Netgear HomePNA adapter cards sitting on the shelf, I can't use them to add my second-floor PCs to the network until Netgear starts shipping a phone-line-to-Ethernet bridge. I've seen these bridges advertised in catalogs and have even preordered one, but apparently they're just not on the market yet.

TOM CONNELL

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
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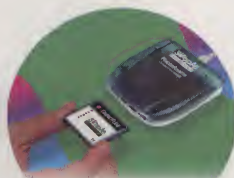
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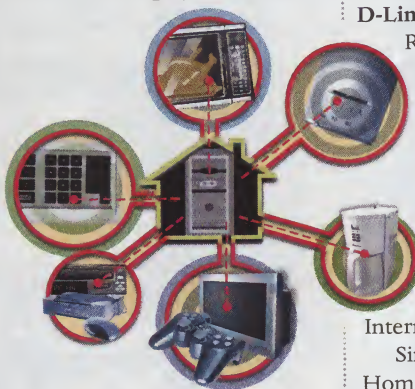
The Well-Connected HOME

While the idea of your Frigidaire chatting with your Dell might seem a bit far-fetched, the day they strike up that first conversation might not be too far off. That's because the coming convergence of home electronics has taken a giant step forward with the introduction of residential gateways, devices that bridge the Internet and the home local area network (LAN).

These devices are particularly compelling for those with broadband access because they essentially act as a home server, distributing Net access among PCs and shielding the systems from hackers. In the future, residential gateways will connect objects as diverse as PCs, PDAs, gaming consoles, telephone services, home security systems,

electronic lighting, and, yes, the refrigerator.

But first, they'll act as an inexpensive server that links the home LANs and the Net. To that end, **Compaq Computer**



Corp. intends to launch a slick little product called the Compaq Connection Point, a residential gateway that it says

will be easy to use and install. The Connection Point will come with Ethernet and a V.90 modem built in, and will also support Wireless HomeRF and phone-line HomePNA LANs. It's expected to cost \$499, and it should be available this fall.

Already on the market is **D-Link Systems'** \$99 DI-701 Residential Gateway,

which provides one Ethernet port for connection to a home network and one port for broadband access. It includes firewall security software and allows up to 32 users to share a single

Internet connection.

Similarly, **2Wire's** \$549 HomePortal 1000 shares a DSL connection throughout the home using HomePNA and Ethernet. It's a much more comprehensive system than the

D-Link product, offering a wider array of features that includes the ability to share a DSL connection through a HomePNA 2.0 phone-line network and an additional Ethernet network. The DSL modem itself is also included.

Meanwhile, many home

ONLINE BIG TIME

BizRate.com, the site that lets consumers rate e-tailers, predicts online sales of retail hard goods will hit \$46 billion this year, flying past last year's \$16 billion in sales, says Paul W. Bates, vice president of research.

Bates says winners for 2000 will be:

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Appliances

A PALM FOR EVERY HAND

After single-handedly conquering the corporate market, **Palm** now aims to swat around its competitors in the consumer arena with a new PDA for casual users. Its \$149 M100 organizer targets the entry-level set with great new features like a built-in alarm clock and a colorful, curvy design.

The M100 will ship with a durable screen that's slightly smaller than the existing Palm III's, although it will offer a readable 0.29 dot pitch, providing crisper text than current models. A clock face will be visible through the

flip-down cover and will feature an alarm setting that will obviate the need for travel alarm clocks.



Palm adds curves and a clock.

Its niftiest software enhancement is the capability to create virtual sticky notes. This software enables you to jot memos that can be attached to Notepad documents, much the same way you might slap a Post-it note on a paper document.

You can customize the

M100 using colored faceplates, which you can snap into place as your color moods shift. They will be available in various hues from Palm and third parties for approximately \$20.

Palm veterans will find the M100 tricked out with familiar features that include 2MB of RAM, an IR port for beaming data, and the intuitive Palm OS. Unfortunately, the M100 will forgo a speedy USB connection in favor of a parallel or serial link to the computer. A sleek desktop cradle will be available for \$29.95.

Designed with a fair amount of flair and priced to please, Palm hopes the M100 will attract those still sitting on the PDA fence.

—Brian Bennett

builders are starting to wire new homes from the ground up for networking. In fact, according to market-research firm **Parks Associates**, 48 percent of new housing starts will have structured wiring by 2004.

But you don't have to wait: A system from IBM spin-off **Home Director** connects PCs, video devices, and phones from any networked room, and will also let you control lighting and temperature through a connected TV, computer, or Web device. Installations are handled through professional contractors and range from \$500 to \$3,500 for a fully wired home.

—Neil Randall

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Let the Browser Watch The Kids

Yes, you can work and watch your children play at the same time—over the Net, that is. A handful of companies are placing Webcams in day-care centers, ensuring that you won't miss that first step because you're incarcerated in your cubicle.

In addition to providing



Day care live on the Web

security, the services let you follow your child's development. "Our main objective is to provide parents with peace of mind, to provide a window into their child's day," says Joel Gantcher, senior director of business development at **ParentWatch** (www.parentwatch.com).

The company provides free service to more than 800 centers in 33 states, charging parents \$24.99 per month to view live streaming video of their children. Parents also can access lunch menus, class schedules, and parenting advice, as well as links to shopping sites such as **BabyCenter** and **eToys**.

Offering service to 80 centers in 23 states, **WatchMeGrow.com** differs from its competitors by spe-

cializing in still shots that are delayed a few seconds, rather than live streaming video. The reason? Snapshots offer much better image quality, according to Bruce Loftin, president of **WatchMeGrow.com**.

"If you have a nice quality photograph of that room that moment in time, it's much more pleasant to look at," he says.

WatchMeGrow.com charges a flat rate to the center (which passes on a monthly fee to parents of \$6 to \$9 per month) or sells subscriptions directly to parents. The company carefully monitors access by changing login codes monthly. Parents must enter three items of information to get into their account: access code, password, and the name of the child's classroom.

Other companies offering Webcam viewing in day-care centers include **KinderCam** (www.kindercam.com), **KinderView.com**, and **Toddlerwatch.com**, which plans to expand its Toddlerview service to wireless handheld devices.

—Brian T. Horowitz

MIGHTY MODEMS

Good news for those on hold for broadband access: The **International Telecommunications Union** has ratified the V.92 modem standard, which promises peppier performance for dial-up users. Modem vendors plan to begin shipping V.92 products this month.

The V.92 standard delivers some compelling improvements over V.90, the standard which it replaces. First, it won't disconnect when it receives a call-waiting beep—it enables you to suspend a data call, answer the voice call, then re-establish the data call without

SMART MOUSE TRICKS

Passwords are relatively effective in keeping the uninvited at bay, but no identifier is more fail-safe than a person's body features. Not surprisingly, advances in technology are making biometric devices, which grant access to computers by matching fingerprints with a stored version of those prints, increasingly common.

The mouse is the most obvious equipment in which to implement this technology because most everyone uses one. One of the most secure devices on the market is **BioLink Technologies'** U-Match BioLink Mouse, a two-button pointer with an optical scanner built into the area where the thumb rests.

The \$129 U-Match Mouse has a built-in 24MHz processor that encrypts fingerprint data before it's stored on the computer. "We never store the bitmap image of the fingerprint," says Todd R. Hinesley, director of worldwide sales at **BioLink**. "We don't transmit that image across the mouse wire, where it could be captured by a hacker." He adds that the mouse captures 100 "minutiae points" (separate details of the fingerprint) and that the false acceptance rate is one in a billion.

Other companies, such as **Qvoice**, are working with notebook vendors to incorporate biometric pads into the wrist rests of notebooks, bringing a similar level of security to the mobile set. **Acer America** says it intends to release a notebook with a built-in biometric pad by September.

And **Sony Electronics** is set to debut a new credit-card-size biometric device that provides both authentication and data security for notebooks and



Fingerprint inspector: the U-Match BioLink Mouse

desktops. The FIU-700 employs public-key infrastructure (PKI) technology to strengthen fingerprint-identification capabilities. The sleek USB device is expected this fall at an estimated cost of \$300.

—Neil Randall

losing the connection. Caller ID software supplied by modem manufacturers will display the name and number of the incoming caller.

What's more, V.92 modems will connect faster because they can remember settings and dispense with much of the initial "handshaking," enabling connections in as fast as 5 seconds.

Another enhancement is the ability to balance upload and download speeds. Instead of having these speeds set at the current 31Kbps and 48Kbps, respectively, users will be able to balance them

evenly at 44Kbps and 44Kbps. This will facilitate tasks such as videoconferencing that work more efficiently with balanced speeds.

Despite the hoopla over broadband, the majority of computer users still rely on dial-up connections. In fact, **Cahners In-Stat Group** predicts that 52 percent of users will still employ analog modems to connect to the Net by 2003. These enhancements just may make the wait for faster access a little easier.

—N.R.

I don't know really how to say this, but I had a few doubts about the buzz on your new RADEON™ gamer boards. I checked out your so-called RADEON™ GPU with its integrated T&L acceleration and ultra-fast DDR to speed up my Quake™ III Arena framerates. Not only does RADEON™ have awesome high-quality performance but it supports more advanced 3D games and upcoming DirectX™ 8.0 features than any other graphics board. The DVD playback feature will come in handy when I need to take a break from gaming. And, I have to admit the video capture and TV-output option on RADEON™ 64MB DDR makes it a must-have. But, just remember, the only opinion of RADEON™ that matters is mine and I have only one thing to say to you ATI



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Chipping in the MIPS

Since 1999, PC users have participated in a distributed-computing program called SETI@Home that aims to detect alien life in outer space. Now several new companies hope to harness the power of distributed computing for commercial projects—and they're willing to pay for your PC's contribution.

SETI@Home (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence), a program started at UC Berkeley, is the most popular consumer-based implementation of distributed computing, which parcels out pieces of a



massive project among many smaller machines. More than 2 million users have downloaded its screen-saver application, which works during PC downtime to analyze signals collected by a radio telescope. These

volunteers have collectively contributed more than 300,000 years of computing time for the project, resulting in a system that averages a staggering 12 teraflops (that's 12 trillion floating-point operations per second) at almost no cost.

While SETI@Home participants donate their computer resources for free, some companies are betting that providing more tangible compensation is an even brighter idea. United Devices (www.ud.com), for instance, plans to sell consumer PC resources to research firms that need supercomputing power. Participants who devote computing time to these commercial projects would earn compensation based on the amount

of time and processing power contributed.

United Devices is exploring various incentive models that include monthly micropayments, virtual sweepstakes tickets, frequent-flyer miles, credit toward monthly ISP bills, and contributions to charitable organizations, says chief executive Ed Hubbard. The firm is testing an alpha version of its downloadable commercial software, which is due to launch later this year.

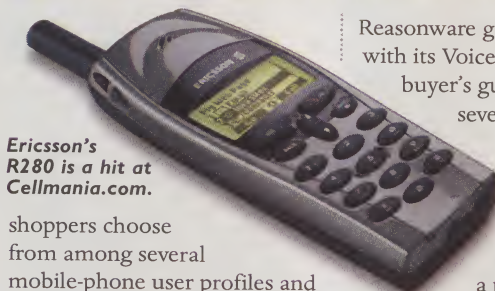
And it's not alone: Two other companies, Popular Power (www.popularpower.com) and Distributed Science (www.distributedscience.com) have hatched similar plans to launch commercial programs that let you trade your PC's downtime for comparable incentives. —Wendy Sheehan

An Easy Call

Need help making the right call on a cell phone and service plan to fit your needs? Skip the long waits at retail stores and head straight to Web sites that help you sort through the morass of wireless options.

Three of the most comprehensive are Decide.com, Cellmania.com, and Reasonware (www.reasonware.com). These spare you the time and frustration of tracking down phones and plans on the street, and also deliver more accurate, unbiased information. Ratings and reviews are available on all three sites; Decide.com uses its own reviewers, while Cellmania.com and Reasonware ask users to submit opinions.

All offer plenty of handholding in finding the right products and services. Decide.com and Cellmania.com, for instance, let



Ericsson's R280 is a hit at Cellmania.com.

shoppers choose from among several mobile-phone user profiles and then make product suggestions based on that profile.

Reasonware goes a bit further with its Voice of Reason buyer's guide, which asks several multiple-choice questions and then delivers a customized recommendation for a phone, calling plan, and accessories.

For those who prefer to go

it alone, all three sites provide a complete listing of products and service plans, enabling users to compare the fine points of two or more products. All offer useful tools such as a glossary, news, tips, and FAQs. Decide.com also provides service maps and the ability to compare the call quality in the shopper's region.

—Elaine X. Grant

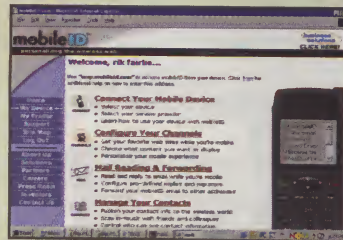
BOOKMARK YOUR PHONE

Maneuvering the Web on a cell phone can be maddening—especially when you want to access sites that aren't on the first screen of the browser provided by your cellular company. Now there's a way to customize your cell-phone browser so that it puts your favorites first.

Using mobileID (www.mobileid.com), you can create a tailor-made view of the wireless Web by selecting sites from its list of destinations optimized for Wireless Application Protocol (WAP). It also serves up services that deliver information on restaurants and movie times.

When you sign up for a mobileID account at its Web site, you can easily route personal and

corporate e-mail to your cell phone. (The service supports POP 3 and IMAP 4 accounts, but not AOL or Lotus Notes.) You also can enter contact information that can be accessed from the phone and shared with others.



A microbrowser, made to order

In the future, mobileID will add instant-messaging capabilities and location-based services that would, for instance, alert you to a sale as you come within a certain distance of a particular store.

—Rik Fairlie

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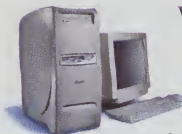
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W

ith Sager's NP8500 Desktop

Replacement Series, you carry the capability of a full desktop wherever you go.

This one comes fully loaded, with the powerful Intel® Pentium® III processor, DVD-ROM or CD-ROM Drive, and IEEE-1394, TV-Out and Video-In Ports, plus an optional LS-120 or Iomega® Zip Drive.

The 101-key Keyboard and generous 15.1" XGA Active Matrix Display make using this notebook pure pleasure. And there's plenty of battery power to keep you in business. Want faster graphics? The NP2850 Speed & Agility Series handles demanding graphics applications like a dream, thanks to its fast 100MHz SDRAM, 2X AGP Chipset and 3D Graphics Accelerator. Plus, it comes with a crisp 15.1" XGA Active Matrix Display and a built-in DVD-ROM or CD-ROM Drive. All this at 1.5" thin and under 7.15 pounds.

Special Pricing

Government, corporate and other special rates are available. Please call for details. GSA Contract # GS-35F-4168G

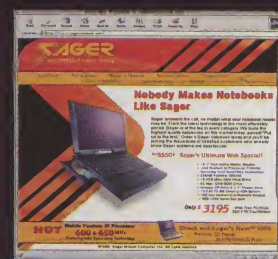
Business Leasing Available

Program Administered by: Freedom Capital "Specializing in Equipment Leasing"

Optional 3 Year Extended Warranty from General Electric Available.



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NP8500 Series
Desktop Replacement



NP2850 Series
Speed & Agility

You Name it...We've Got the Right Portable for You.

NP8550s

- > 15.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
- > Mobile Pentium® III Processor 750MHz Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
- > 256MB 100MHz SDRAM
- > 20.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- > 8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive†
- > Modular Iomega® Zip Drive and 3.5" FDD
- > 15-cell 75.6w Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > 102-key Keyboard with Numeric Keypad
- > IEEE-1394 Port
- > 256KB On-die L2 Cache
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 1 TV-Out Port & 1 Video-In Port
- > Other Ports: 2 USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Deluxe Carrying Case
- > Weight: 9.5 lbs with Battery
- > 14.0" w x 11.0" d x 2.2" h
- > Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

\$3095

NP8550i

- > 15.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
- > Mobile Pentium® III Processor 700MHz Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
- > 128MB 100MHz SDRAM
- > 20.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- > 8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive†
- > 15-cell 75.6w Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > 102-key Keyboard with Numeric Keypad
- > IEEE-1394 Port
- > 256KB On-die L2 Cache
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > Modular 3.5" FDD exchangeable with opt. LS-120, Iomega® Zip Drive or 2nd HDD
- > 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 1 TV-Out Port & 1 Video-In Port
- > Other Ports: 2 USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Deluxe Carrying Case
- > Weight: 9.5 lbs with Battery
- > 14.0" w x 11.0" d x 2.2" h
- > Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

\$2595

NP8550e

- > 15.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
- > Mobile Pentium® III Processor 600MHz Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
- > 128MB 100MHz SDRAM
- > 10.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- > 8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive†
- > 15-cell 75.6w Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > 102-key Keyboard with Numeric Keypad
- > IEEE-1394 Port
- > 256KB On-die L2 Cache
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > Modular 3.5" FDD exchangeable with opt. LS-120, Iomega® Zip Drive or 2nd HDD
- > 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 1 TV-Out Port & 1 Video-In Port
- > Other Ports: 2 USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Deluxe Carrying Case
- > Weight: 9.5 lbs with Battery
- > 14.0" w x 11.0" d x 2.2" h
- > Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

\$2345

NP8550c

- > 15.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
- > Intel® Pentium® III Processor 600MHz
- > 64MB 100MHz SDRAM
- > 6.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- > 8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive†
- > 15-cell 75.6w Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > 102-key Keyboard with Numeric Keypad
- > IEEE-1394 Port
- > 256KB On-die L2 Cache
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > Modular 3.5" FDD exchangeable with opt. LS-120, Iomega® Zip Drive or 2nd HDD
- > 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 1 TV-Out Port & 1 Video-In Port
- > Other Ports: 2 USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Deluxe Carrying Case
- > Weight: 9.5 lbs with Battery
- > 14.0" w x 11.0" d x 2.2" h
- > Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

\$2195

NP2850s

- > 15.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
- > Mobile Pentium® III Processor 750MHz Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
- > 128MB SDRAM
- > 20.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- > 8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive†
- > Integrated 10/100 Ethernet
- > Thin (1.49") and Lightweight (7.1 lbs.)
- > 256KB On-die L2 Cache
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- > 3D Surround Sound
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 2 USB Ports
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Deluxe Carrying Case
- > 12.8" w x 10.51" d x 1.49" h
- > Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

\$2745

NP2850e

- > 15.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
- > Mobile Pentium® III Processor 700MHz Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
- > 128MB 100MHz SDRAM
- > 10.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- > 8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive†
- > Integrated 10/100 Ethernet
- > Thin (1.49") and Lightweight (7.1 lbs.)
- > 256KB On-die L2 Cache
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- > 3D Surround Sound
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 2 USB Ports
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Deluxe Carrying Case
- > 12.8" w x 10.51" d x 1.49" h
- > Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

\$2445

NP2850i

- > 15.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
- > Mobile Pentium® III Processor 600MHz Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
- > 64MB 100MHz SDRAM
- > 10.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- > 24X Max. CD-ROM Drive*
- > Integrated 10/100 Ethernet
- > Thin (1.49") and Lightweight (7.1 lbs.)
- > 256KB On-die L2 Cache
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- > 3D Surround Sound
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 2 USB Ports
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Deluxe Carrying Case
- > 12.8" w x 10.51" d x 1.49" h
- > Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

\$2045

NP2850c

- > 15.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
- > Intel® Celeron™ Processor 600MHz
- > 64MB 100MHz SDRAM
- > 6.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- > 24X Max. CD-ROM Drive*
- > Integrated 10/100 Ethernet
- > Thin (1.49") and Lightweight (7.1 lbs.)
- > 128KB On-die L2 Cache
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- > 3D Surround Sound
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 2 USB Ports
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Deluxe Carrying Case
- > 12.8" w x 10.51" d x 1.49" h
- > Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

\$1895

OPTIONS

- > Car Adapter
- > Iomega® Zip Drive (NP8500)
- > LS-120 Drive (NP8500)
- > Port Replicator (NP8500)
- > Numeric Keypad
- > 56K V.90 Modem*
- > PCMCIA 10/100M Ethernet Card
- > PCMCIA 10/100M+ 56K Lan Modem
- > USB Video-Camera

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Value, Power, Lightweight, Flexible... We've got it all.

NP3350s

- > 14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
- > Mobile Pentium® III Processor 750MHz Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
- > 128MB 100MHz SDRAM
- > 20.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- > 8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive†
- > Modular 3.5" FDD exchangeable with LS-120 Drive or 2nd HDD
- > IEEE-1394 Port
- > 256KB On-die L2 Cache
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > 3D Surround Sound
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 1 TV-Out Port
- > 2 USB Ports
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Deluxe Carrying Case
- > Weight: 6.8 lbs with Battery
- > 12.4" w x 10.1" d x 1.58" h
- > Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

\$2545

NP3350i

- > 14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
- > Mobile Pentium® III Processor 700MHz Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
- > 128MB 100MHz SDRAM
- > 10.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- > 8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive†
- > Modular 3.5" FDD exchangeable with LS-120 Drive or 2nd HDD
- > IEEE-1394 Port
- > 256KB On-die L2 Cache
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > 3D Surround Sound
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 1 TV-Out Port
- > 2 USB Ports
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Deluxe Carrying Case
- > Weight: 6.8 lbs with Battery
- > 12.4" w x 10.1" d x 1.58" h
- > Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

\$2245

NP3350e

- > 14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
- > Mobile Pentium® III Processor 600MHz Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
- > 64MB 100MHz SDRAM
- > 10.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- > 8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive†
- > Modular 3.5" FDD exchangeable with LS-120 Drive or 2nd HDD
- > IEEE-1394 Port
- > 256KB On-die L2 Cache
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > 3D Surround Sound
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 1 TV-Out Port
- > 2 USB Ports
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Deluxe Carrying Case
- > Weight: 6.8 lbs with Battery
- > 12.4" w x 10.1" d x 1.58" h
- > Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

\$1995

NP3350c

- > 14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
- > Mobile Intel® Celeron™ Processor 600MHz
- > 64MB 100MHz SDRAM
- > 6.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- > 24X Max. CD-ROM Drive*
- > Modular 3.5" FDD exchangeable with LS-120 Drive or 2nd HDD
- > IEEE-1394 Port
- > 128KB On-die L2 Cache
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > 3D Surround Sound
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 1 TV-Out Port
- > 2 USB Ports
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Deluxe Carrying Case
- > Weight: 6.8 lbs with Battery
- > 12.4" w x 10.1" d x 1.58" h
- > Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

\$1745

NP3220s

- > 13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
- > Intel® Pentium® III Processor 600MHz
- > 64MB SDRAM
- > 10.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- > Hot-Swappable Bay for 8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive†, 3.5" FDD (both included) or opt. LS-120 Drive
- > Internal 56K V.90 Fax/Modem¹
- > Thin (1.26") and Lightweight (5.6 lbs.)
- > 2-Tone Beauty
- > 256KB On-die L2 Cache
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > 3D Surround Sound
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > Ports: USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Deluxe Carrying Case
- > Weight: 5.6 lbs with Battery
- > 12.05" w x 9.13" d x 1.26" h
- > Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

\$1945

NP3220i

- > 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix Display
- > Intel® Pentium® III Processor 600MHz
- > 64MB SDRAM
- > 6.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- > Hot-Swappable Bay for 8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive†, 3.5" FDD (both included) or opt. LS-120 Drive
- > Internal 56K V.90 Fax/Modem¹
- > Thin (1.26") and Lightweight (5.6 lbs.)
- > 2-Tone Beauty
- > 256KB On-die L2 Cache
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > 3D Surround Sound
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > Ports: USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Deluxe Carrying Case
- > Weight: 5.6 lbs with Battery
- > 12.05" w x 9.13" d x 1.26" h
- > Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

\$1795

NP3220e

- > 13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
- > Intel® Celeron™ Processor 500MHz
- > 64MB SDRAM
- > 6.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- > Hot-Swappable Bay for 24X Max. CD-ROM*, 3.5" FDD (both included) or opt. LS-120 Drive
- > Internal 56K V.90 Fax/Modem¹
- > Thin (1.26") and Lightweight (5.6 lbs.)
- > 2-Tone Beauty
- > 128KB On-die L2 Cache
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > 3D Surround Sound
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > Ports: USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Deluxe Carrying Case
- > Weight: 5.6 lbs with Battery
- > 12.05" w x 9.13" d x 1.26" h
- > Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

\$1645

NP3220c

- > 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix Display
- > Intel® Celeron™ Processor 500MHz
- > 32MB SDRAM
- > 6.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- > Hot-Swappable Bay for 24X Max. CD-ROM*, 3.5" FDD (both included) or opt. LS-120 Drive
- > Internal 56K V.90 Fax/Modem¹
- > Thin (1.26") and Lightweight (5.6 lbs.)
- > 2-Tone Beauty
- > 128KB On-die L2 Cache
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > 3D Surround Sound
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > Ports: USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Deluxe Carrying Case
- > Weight: 5.6 lbs with Battery
- > 12.05" w x 9.13" d x 1.26" h
- > Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

\$1495

OPTIONS

- > Car Adapter
- > LS-120 Drive
- > Port Replicator (NP3350)
- > 2nd Hard Drive (NP3350)
- > 56K V.90 Modem¹
- > USB Video-Camera
- > PCMCIA 10/100M Ethernet Card
- > PCMCIA 10/100M + 56K Lan Modem
- > Numeric Keypad

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S

ager's NP3350 Powerful & Precise

Series is a power-packed notebook.

Featuring an all-in-one design, including

advanced features such as the top of

the line Intel® Pentium® III processors,

IEEE-1394 Port and TV-Out Port, and a

14.1" XGA Display. All this, and more, is

loaded into a beautiful case measuring

just 1.58" thin. Sleek and trim at only

1.26" thin and 5.6 pounds light – Sager's

NP3220 Slim & Fast Series is bursting with

functionality. Available in two display sizes,

13.3" and 12.1", this Intel® Pentium® III

processor powered notebook comes with

the newest hot-swappable bay – allowing

a floppy drive, LS-120, DVD-ROM or

CD-ROM to be exchanged while the

system is running. With other slim

notebooks on the market today, these

add-ons must be external.

Special Pricing

Government, corporate and other special rates are available. Please call for details. GSA Contract # GS-35F-4168G

Business Leasing Available

Program Administered by: Freedom Capital
"Specializing in Equipment Leasing"

Optional 3 Year Extended Warranty from General Electric Available.



NP3350 Series
Powerful & Precise



NP3220 Series
Slim & Fast

To order online

24 hours a day,

go to our website,

www.sagernotebook.com





For up to the minute pricing and to order online, 24 hours a day, go to our website: www.sagernotebook.com

NP3360 Series Beyond Extreme



NP5150 Series Small All-In-One

Sager's NP3360 Beyond Extreme Series

is a multimedia masterpiece. A sure winner of the Academy Award for best notebook featuring 6X Max. DVD-ROM and Software MPG II. For the category of best supporting Intel® processor, the Intel® Pentium® III processor is the undisputed winner. Last but not least, give a standing ovation to the wide range of display sizes available 14.1", 13.3" XGA or plug into the TV-out port of the thin attractive case 1.58" and really let the show begin.

Sager's incredible NP5150 Small All-In-One Series notebooks offer the performance of an Intel® Pentium® III processor and multiple features all within one of the industry's smallest footprints. And, to top it all off, you can have this silver tone beauty for an amazingly small price.

Special Pricing

Government, corporate and other special rates are available. Please call for details. GSA Contract # GS-35F-4168G

Business Leasing Available

Program Administered by: Freedom Capital "Specializing in Equipment Leasing"

Optional 3 Year Extended Warranty from General Electric Available.



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* - 10X Min. † - 2X Min. ** Maximum Transmission speed of up to 53Kbps when downloading and 33.6Kbps when uploading data. Actual speeds may vary depending on line conditions and current FCC restrictions.

You Choose... Sager - The Right Decision for Portables

NP3360s

- > 14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
- > Intel® Pentium® III Processor 750MHz
- > 128MB 100MHz SDRAM
- > 20.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- > 8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive†
- > Modular 3.5" FDD exchangeable with opt. LS-120 Drive or 2nd HDD
- > 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > 3D Surround Sound
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 1 TV-Out Port & 2 USB Ports
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Deluxe Carrying Case
- > Weight: 6.8 lbs with Battery
- > 12.4" w x 10.1" d x 1.58" h
- > Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

\$2245

NP3360i

- > 14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
- > Intel® Pentium® III Processor 700MHz
- > 128MB 100MHz SDRAM
- > 10.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- > 8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive†
- > Modular 3.5" FDD exchangeable with opt. LS-120 Drive or 2nd HDD
- > 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > 3D Surround Sound
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 1 TV-Out Port & 2 USB Ports
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Deluxe Carrying Case
- > Weight: 6.8 lbs with Battery
- > 12.4" w x 10.1" d x 1.58" h
- > Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

\$2095

NP3360e

- > 13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
- > Intel® Pentium® III Processor 700MHz
- > 64MB 100MHz SDRAM
- > 10.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- > 8X Max. DVD-ROM Drive†
- > Modular 3.5" FDD exchangeable with opt. LS-120 Drive or 2nd HDD
- > 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > 3D Surround Sound
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 1 TV-Out Port & 2 USB Ports
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Deluxe Carrying Case
- > Weight: 6.8 lbs with Battery
- > 12.4" w x 10.1" d x 1.58" h
- > Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

\$1945

NP3360c

- > 13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
- > Intel® Celeron™ Processor 500MHz
- > 64MB 100MHz SDRAM
- > 6.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- > 24X Max. CD-ROM Drive*
- > Modular 3.5" FDD exchangeable with opt. LS-120 Drive or 2nd HDD
- > 128KB On-Die L2 Cache
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > 3D Surround Sound
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 1 TV-Out Port & 2 USB Ports
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > A4 Size Windows® 95 Keyboard
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Deluxe Carrying Case
- > Weight: 6.8 lbs with Battery
- > 12.4" w x 10.1" d x 1.58" h
- > Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

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NP5150s

- > 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix Display
- > Intel® Pentium® III Processor 600MHz
- > 64MB SDRAM
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- > 6X Max. DVD-ROM Drive†
- > The Smallest All-In-One Design
- > 256KB On-die L2 Cache
- > 4MB Video SDRAM with AGP
- > 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- > 3D Surround Sound
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 1 TV-Out Port
- > 1 Kensington Lock Port
- > Other Ports: USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > Windows® 95 Keyboard
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Deluxe Carrying Case
- > Weight: 5.8 lbs with Battery
- > 11.0" w x 9.4" d x 1.6" h
- > Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

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NP5150e

- > 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix Display
- > Intel® Pentium® III Processor 600MHz
- > 64MB SDRAM
- > 6.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- > 24X Max. CD-ROM Drive*
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- > 128KB On-die L2 Cache
- > 4MB Video SDRAM with AGP
- > 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- > 3D Surround Sound
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 1 TV-Out Port
- > 1 Kensington Lock Port
- > Other Ports: USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > Windows® 95 Keyboard
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Deluxe Carrying Case
- > Weight: 5.8 lbs with Battery
- > 11.0" w x 9.4" d x 1.6" h
- > Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

\$1595

NP5150c

- > 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix Display
- > Intel® Celeron™ Processor 500MHz
- > 64MB SDRAM
- > 6.0GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- > 24X Max. CD-ROM Drive*
- > The Smallest All-In-One Design
- > 128KB On-die L2 Cache
- > 4MB Video SDRAM with AGP
- > 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- > 3D Surround Sound
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 1 TV-Out Port
- > 1 Kensington Lock Port
- > Other Ports: USB, 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > Windows® 95 Keyboard
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Deluxe Carrying Case
- > Weight: 5.8 lbs with Battery
- > 11.0" w x 9.4" d x 1.6" h
- > Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

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Sager's Umbrella Protection Policy

- > 30-Day Money-Back Guarantee. If the equipment does not work as promised, or if you are not fully satisfied, we will issue a full refund upon the return of all original equipment.
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TRAVEL ADVISORY

Most travelers visit far more Web sites while planning a trip than they do places on vacation. That's because most any search yields a multitude of hits, and only the experienced—or bizarrely lucky—can separate the good sites from the garbage.

It's about time that travel got its own search engine. **TripAdvisor** (www.tripadvisor.com), debuting this month,

researching his own getaway. After days of searching, he finally found relevant information—on an individual's personal home page. "I decided there must be a better way," Kaufer says.

TripAdvisor will cull travel data from newspaper, magazine, and travel-guide Web sites, as well as from chat rooms and newsgroups, he says. The site also will post reviews written by its users.

You'll be able to perform a keyword search, or look for information by destination or activity. The site will display a list of links to relevant articles, summaries, reviews, and comments, as well as personalized information on lodging, attractions, activities, and events.

Search results will be ranked according to relevance, based on the user's profile, and users can rate the value of each page on a scale of one to five.

TripAdvisor will be accessible as a standalone site, but the company's bread and butter will be selling its services to other travel sites such as **Expedia** and **Travelocity.com**, and to electronic storefronts operated by airlines, tour operators, and hotel companies.

—Elaine X. Grant

Net Nuptials

Almost half of engaged couples who have Web access are using the Net to help tie the knot, according to a study by **The NPd Group**. The research firm says 48 percent of respondents use the Web to gather information. Not surprisingly, women visiting wedding-planning destinations outnumber men three to one. Here are the respondents' favorite sites:

Web Site	Percent of Respondents Visiting*
WeddingChannel.com.....	37%
TheKnot.com.....	35%
ModernBride.com.....	34%
WeddingNetwork.com	23%

* = Multiple responses allowed per respondent



Bluetooth Coming In

Feel like you're growing long in the tooth waiting for Bluetooth products? Hang in there: An array of vendors say they will ship Bluetooth-enabled devices by year's end.

Bluetooth is a short-range wireless technology that will allow you to synchronize devices and transmit data within a 30-foot radius. Notebooks and handhelds will be the first devices to employ Bluetooth, initially in the form of PC Cards.

Motorola is supplying Bluetooth-enabled PC Card and USB devices to **IBM Corp.** and **Toshiba America Information**



Motorola is shipping Bluetooth PC cards, USB devices.

Systems for new lines of notebooks. **Epson America** says it plans to include Bluetooth in its line of printers, enabling users to wirelessly print from a PC, mobile phone, or handheld device.

Socket Communications will unveil end-to-end networking capabilities that enable mobile users to access Ethernet networks using plug-in CompactFlash cards or PC Cards. And **Xircom** has announced that it is collaborating with **Ericsson** to integrate Bluetooth technology into notebooks and handheld devices.

These products are all scheduled to debut by the end of the year. A year later, 100 million Bluetooth-enabled devices will have shipped, according to a **Dataquest** forecast.

—Richard S. Shim



Get Greece, not Georgia, with TripAdvisor.

takes a new approach by collecting, categorizing, and qualifying information from a wide variety of sources, rather than spewing out sites indiscriminately.

The idea for this method hit TripAdvisor president Stephen Kaufer while he was

VALUE LINE DESKTOPS

A sampling of desktop configurations and pricing based on ads in the July issue of *Computer Shopper*

Compaq \$599
566MHz Celeron, 64MB RAM, 10GB hard drive, 15" monitor, CD-ROM, printer, scanner

Quantex \$1,299
800MHz Pentium III, 128MB RAM, 20GB hard drive, 17" monitor, DVD

IBM \$1,783
733MHz Pentium III, 128MB RAM, 30GB hard drive, 17" monitor, CD-RW, 32MB graphics, Ethernet

Systemax \$2,629
1GHz Athlon, 128MB RAM, 60GB hard drive, 19" monitor, CD-RW, DVD, 32MB graphics

CyberPower \$885
800MHz Pentium III, 128MB RAM, 20GB hard drive, no monitor, CD-ROM, 32MB graphics

Gateway \$1,499
800MHz Pentium III, 128MB RAM, 15GB hard drive, 17" monitor, CD-ROM, 16MB graphics, Ethernet

Avantgarde \$2,069
850MHz Athlon, 768MB RAM, 30GB hard drive, no monitor, CD-RW, 32MB graphics

Dell \$3,167
800MHz Pentium III, 128MB RAM, 20.4GB hard drive, 17" TFT, CD-ROM, 64MB graphics, Ethernet

Source: Computer Shopper Leading Brand Index, July 2000

B2B
BUZZ

Shave and A Haircut: Two Clicks

What do a local hair salon, an auto-repair shop, and a fancy restaurant have in common? They're all in the service business, and they've all been standing on the curb watching the e-commerce parade go by—until now.

Using Xtime Scheduler, service companies, which repre-

same basic things for the service industry that Sabre does for the airline industry," says Celia Francis, Xtime's vice president of marketing, referring to the huge computer reservations system pioneered by American Airlines. "We just have the advantage of doing it 30 years later."

A business can select among 30 to 50 templates designed for a variety of vertical markets, and can have its name at the top of the form. The company also plans to offer the application to vertical portals and redistribution partners such as DSL providers.

Xtime plans to offer some upgrades to its service, including an online billing system to enable customers to pay up front, and marketing reports designed to tell you who your best customers are.

Xtime says it's offering the application for free to create a technology showcase for its enterprise application. The company declined to provide pricing information for this application, but said it adds a telephone interface through which customer can make reservations and appointments by responding to voice prompts. It also enables the importing of current customer information into the database, and it can be designed to have the same look and feel as a company's own Web site.

—Nancy A. Lang

GUARANTEED LIQUIDITY

If you don't like the price, wait a day. That's the message of onedayfree (www.onedayfree.com), a new breed of B2B product-exchange site. Dubbed a calendar auction, onedayfree is designed to help businesses buy and sell surplus inventory, remanufactured goods, end-of-life products, and time-sensitive items.

Initially, the site will sell only computer products, but it plans to expand to other categories, such as office equipment. "We want to prove the concept within the computer category first," says Kevin Scheier, chief executive and founder.

Here's how it works: A seller offers up a supply of goods and drops the information into a calendar format. But instead of the calendar going from one to 30 (or 60, if the seller chooses a two-month auction), it goes from 30 to one. As each day passes, the price decreases incrementally. Any product remaining by the final day of the auction is free, guaranteeing the seller liquidity. Buyers can purchase any quantity they want instantly or wait for the price to drop; sellers can require minimum purchase quantities.

Throughout the bid-

ding process buyers can view product information; quantities currently available; past, current, and future prices; daily transaction history; and future orders placed for the item. Using the site's automated Order Agent, they can place an order for a specified day and price, provided the inventory remains available on that day.

Day	Price	Quantity
Day 1	\$15.00	5
Day 2	\$14.25	5
Day 3	\$13.50	5
Day 4	\$12.75	5
Day 5	\$11.25	5
Day 6	\$10.50	5
Day 7	\$9.75	5
Day 8	\$9.00	5
Day 9	\$8.25	5
Day 10	\$7.50	5
Day 11	\$6.75	5
Day 12	\$6.00	5
Day 13	\$5.25	5
Day 14	\$4.50	5
Day 15	\$3.75	5
Day 16	\$3.00	5
Day 17	\$2.25	5
Day 18	\$1.50	5
Day 19	\$0.75	5
Day 20	\$0.00	5

At onedayfree, the price of an item drops each day until it's free.

The site charges \$29.95 for a 30-day calendar and \$39.95 for a longer-than-30-day calendar, plus a 2 percent transaction fee. Sellers can also opt for no posting fee and a 5 percent straight commission.

At press time, the site listed more than 1,200 items worth a total of \$250,000. "This far exceeded our expectations," says Scheier, who had anticipated only one-fourth this volume. To attract users, the site ran a promotion auctioning off \$25,000 in 25 lots of \$1,000 each.

—N.A.L.

Site Seeks to Serve Suppliers

With pressure on e-commerce sites to offer consumers the lowest price, the ones really feeling the squeeze are suppliers. So says Boris Resnik, chairman of ZMarket.com. To help this oft-overlooked link in the consumer-product sales chain, the company has introduced what Resnik calls "a complete channel-management solution for suppliers."

The solution consists of two discrete platforms—a SupplierPortal and a BuyerPortal—which enable the suppliers to sell to cus-

tomers from different retail channels and buyers to purchase from a variety of vendors.

Through the SupplierPortal, suppliers set up and maintain individual pricing, promotions, and discount programs for specific resellers or groups of resellers. Value-added services include fulfillment, merchandising, content creation, distribution, and sales and marketing services.

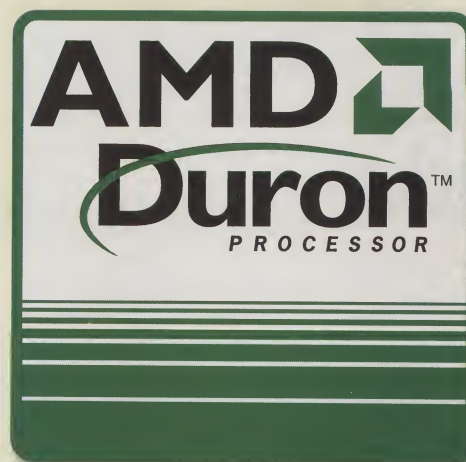
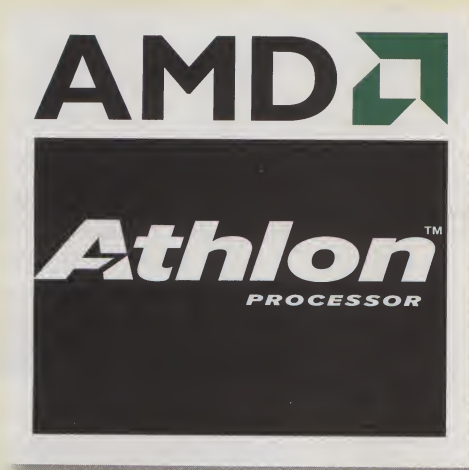
Resellers connect with different suppliers through the BuyerPortal, which at press time listed more than 1,500 products, including

computer peripherals, consumer-electronics items, and housewares.

"The service is for middle-tier companies that can't afford to outlay millions of dollars," says Resnik. The initial fee ranges from \$25,000 to \$50,000, and the ongoing costs range from \$2,000 to \$5,000 per month, plus a transaction fee of 2 percent to 5 percent. At press time, eight companies were fully integrated and online, and six more were on deck.

—N.A.L.

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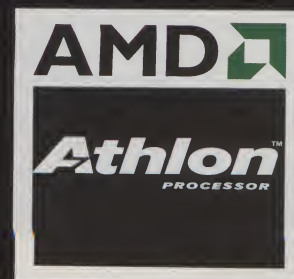


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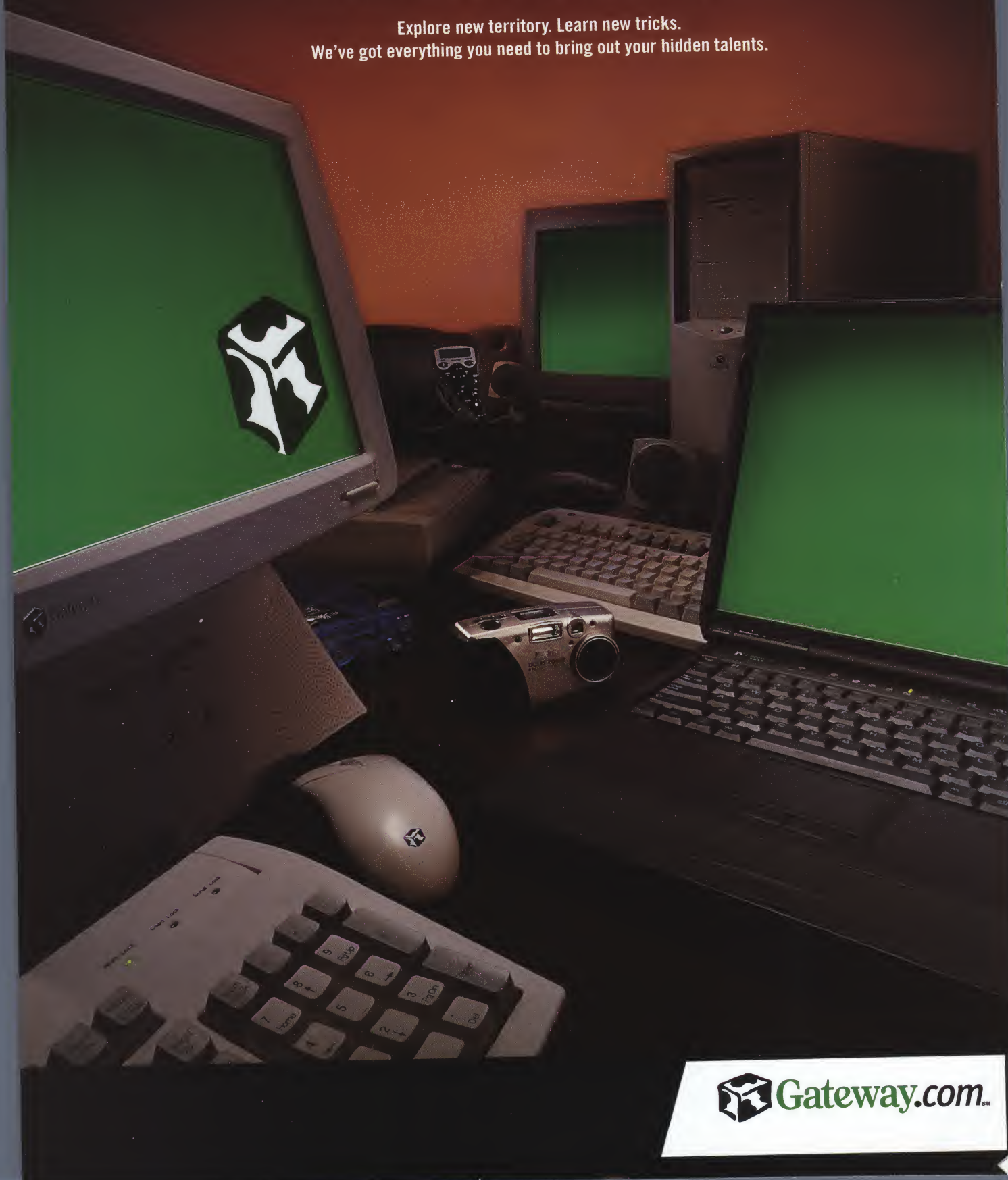
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12X DVD-ROM Drive
Sound Blaster® Live!™ Value Card
Boston Acoustics® BA735™ Speakers
56K¹ PCI Voice Modem
Microsoft® Windows® 98 Second Edition
MS® Works Suite 2000 Software
1-Year AOL® Internet Access⁵

\$1599 or as low as **\$45/mo.**
(APR 14.9%) for 48 mos.*

Gateway Performance 866

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EV700 17" Monitor (15.9" viewable)
32MB NVIDIA RIVA TNT2 4X AGP Graphics Accelerator
30GB UATA100 7200 RPM Hard Drive
16X DVD-ROM Drive
Sound Blaster Live! Value Card
Boston Acoustics BA735 Speakers
56K¹ PCI Voice Modem
MS Windows 98 Second Edition
MS Works Suite 2000 Software
1-Year AOL Internet Access⁵

\$1999 or as low as **\$56/mo.**
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Gateway Performance 933

Intel Pentium III Processor 933MHz
128MB PC133 SDRAM
EV910 19" Monitor (18" viewable)
64MB NVIDIA GeForce2™ GTS™ DDR 4X AGP Graphics Accelerator w/ TV Out
30GB UATA100 7200 RPM Hard Drive
16X DVD-ROM Drive
Sound Blaster Live! Value Card
Boston Acoustics BA735 Speakers
56K¹ PCI Voice Modem
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1-Year AOL Internet Access⁵

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Solution Packages

Gateway Music:)Ware Packages CD Creator Pack

CD-RW (CD-Rewritable Drive), CD Stomper™ Pro Labeling Kit, MusicMatch Jukebox Plus Software, Getting Started Guide, Three-hour "Using Your PC to Explore Digital Music" Course (Instructor-led training at a Gateway Country® store²)

\$229 (For desktop PC)

Digital Audio Creator Pack

Digital Audio Player, MusicMatch Jukebox Plus Software, Getting Started Guide, Three-hour "Using Your PC to Explore Digital Music" Course (Instructor-led training at a Gateway Country store²)

\$229 (For desktop or portable PC)

Gateway Photo:)Ware Packages Digital Photo Workshop

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Intel® 3-D Graphics
15GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
48X Max/20X Min CD-ROM Drive
Stereo Audio
Boston Acoustics BA265™ Speakers
56K¹ PCI Voice Modem
MS Windows 98 Second Edition
MS Works Suite 2000 Software
1-Year AOL Internet Access⁵

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Solo 9300CL

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12GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
8X DVD-ROM Drive
V.90 56K Modem
2X AGP 3-D ATI Rage Mobility™-M w/8MB SDRAM
MS Windows 98 Second Edition
MS Works Suite 2000 Software

1-Year AOL Internet Access¹
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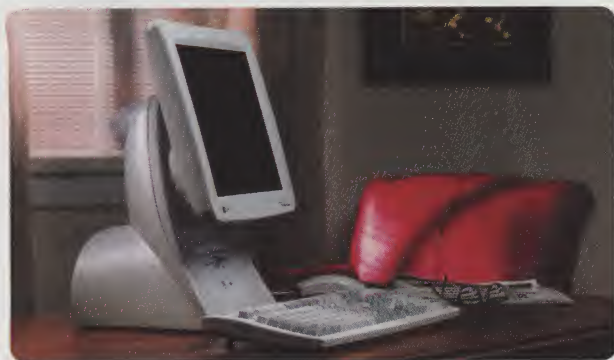
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HOT GEAR

the Stuff you want

picture disc

Sony Electronics has improved on its Mavica line of digital still cameras with the \$1,300 **Mavica MVC-CD1000**, an amazing new model that stores images on a built-in CD-R drive. Using a single 156MB disc, users can stow up to 160 high-res 1,600x1,200 images or a mind-boggling 1,080 Web-ready 640x480 shots. This hefty new Mavica features a through-the-lens optical viewfinder, as well as a 2.5-inch color LCD. A 10x digital zoom, manual as well as automatic focus, and a rechargeable lithium-ion battery ensure you'll get the images you want whenever you need them.

Sony Mavica MVC-CD1000
Sony Electronics
Park Ridge, NJ; 800-222-7669
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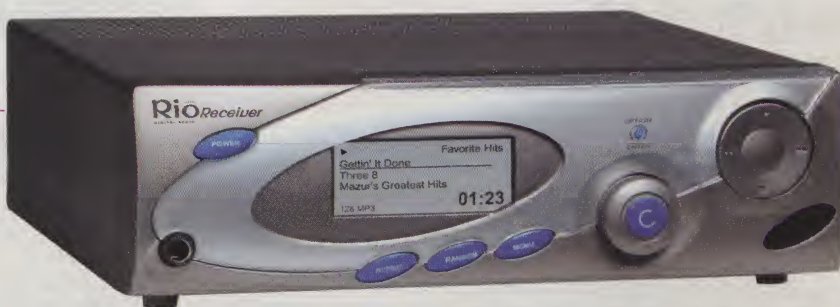
Consumers and traveling pros will appreciate the portability and functionality of Philips' \$129.99 **Vesta Pro Scan** bundle, which includes the Vesta Pro video camera and Ulead's Photo Express program, as well as video-mail and conferencing software. In addition to being a desktop camera capable of taking 30-frames-per-second video at up to 640x480 resolution, the Vesta Pro also serves as a portable scanner, allowing you to scan pages of text and import them into a word processor or e-mail app. Drawing its power from a standard USB port, the Vesta Pro is ideally suited for road warriors who need an extremely portable scanner.

Philips Vesta Pro Scan
Philips Consumer Electronics
New York, NY; 800-835-3506
www.philips.com

rock your rooms

Channel your digital music files to any room in the house with S3's new \$299 **Rio Digital Audio Receiver**, which works with existing phone lines to distribute your tunes beyond the PC. Using phone-based home networking to connect to the PC, the Receiver works wherever a phone jack is located. You can even install multiple Receivers throughout the home and play individual song lists on each. The Receiver works with RealJukebox software and includes an internal PCI audio-connector card for the PC and all the necessary cables.

S3 Rio Digital Audio Receiver
S3
Vancouver, WA; 800-468-5846
www.riohome.com





TFT on the cheap

Think it's impossible to get your hands on a 17-inch flat-panel display for less than \$1,500? Not anymore. Samsung has just released its \$1,454 **SyncMaster 770TFT**, a 17-incher that offers the equivalent viewing area of a conventional 19-inch CRT. The 770TFT supports a maximum resolution of 1,280x1,024 pixels at a 76Hz refresh rate. It can swivel on its base to offer both portrait and landscape views, and supports optional multimedia stereo speakers.

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www.samsungmonitor.com

a mouse that matches

Whether your color vibe shifts by the season or by the second, the **Logitech Special Edition Cordless Wheel Mouse** will always match your mood. The \$39.95 device comes with three snap-on covers that let you personalize its color scheme to match your clothes, eyes, or whim. It works via digital radio technology, obviating the need for any cable; wheel control lets you scroll through windows and Web pages without using the scrollbar. The comfortable symmetrical design works for both left- and right-handed users.

Logitech Special Edition Cordless Wheel Mouse
 Logitech
 Fremont, CA; 800-231-7717
www.logitech.com

you're framed!

As much digital picture frames as they are photo albums, the \$599 **DF-560** and \$399 **DF-390** from Digi-Frame provide a wonderful way to showcase your digital images. The DF-560's 5.6-inch TFT LCD and the DF-390's 3.9-inch display both support 640x480 resolution and automatically resize digital images to fit the screen. You can import pictures either directly from your PC using a standard serial cable, or by inserting the CompactFlash or SmartMedia card from your digital camera into the back of the frame. You can scroll through images manually or have the frame cycle through your Kodak moments automatically.

Digi-Frame DF-560 and DF-390
 Digi-Frame
 Port Chester, NY; 914-937-4090
www.digi-frame.com



HOT GEAR

slim cam

Billed as an image-capturing device rather than a digital camera, Ricoh's slick \$899 **RDC-7** one-ups competing products with a 3.3-megapixel charge-coupled device (CCD) and Pro Mode software to boost resolution by 20 percent. Featuring an optical viewfinder as well as a 2-inch swiveling color LCD panel, the RDC-7 makes it snap-simple to frame shots. You can also record short movies or sound clips, and scan text. In addition, a 3x optical zoom and high-definition macro mode deliver wide flexibility. The device features 8MB of internal memory and supports standard SmartMedia cards and direct USB connectivity to PCs.

Ricoh RDC-7

Ricoh PC Peripherals Business Unit
W. Caldwell, NJ; 888-742-6410
www.ricohcpg.com

handy scan

Holding up to 1,000 pages of text in memory and featuring a character-recognition accuracy rate of 95 percent, the 3-ounce \$179 **QuickLink Pen** from WizCom Technologies is big on features yet remains shirt-pocket portable. The QuickLink Pen saves text in standard ASCII format, which can be shuttled to a PC or handheld device over a serial, USB, or infrared connection. The device runs on two AA batteries and recognizes any font type and size from 6 to 22 points.

WizCom QuickLink Pen

WizCom Technologies
Acton, MA; 888-777-0552
www.wizcomtech.com

the wherever workspace

They may be known as laptops, but most notebooks may as well be called "lapdrops," considering how tricky it is to balance one on your knees. A company called Intrigo has created three transportable workspaces that make notebook computing more ergonomic and secure. Ranging in price from \$99 to \$189, the three products in the **Lapstation** series provide a wide work surface that accommodates a standard notebook and accessories, as well as grips that enable you to quickly adjust its height.

Intrigo Lapstation

Intrigo
Thousand Oaks, CA; 805-494-1742
www.intrigo.com



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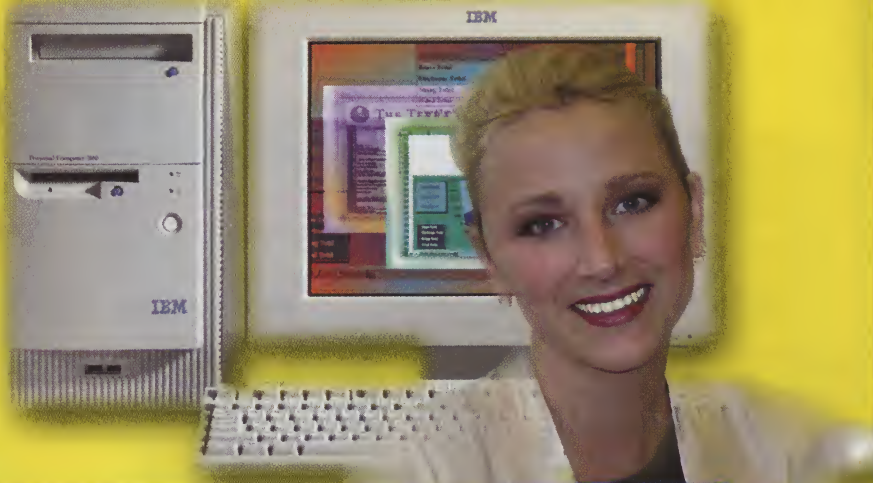
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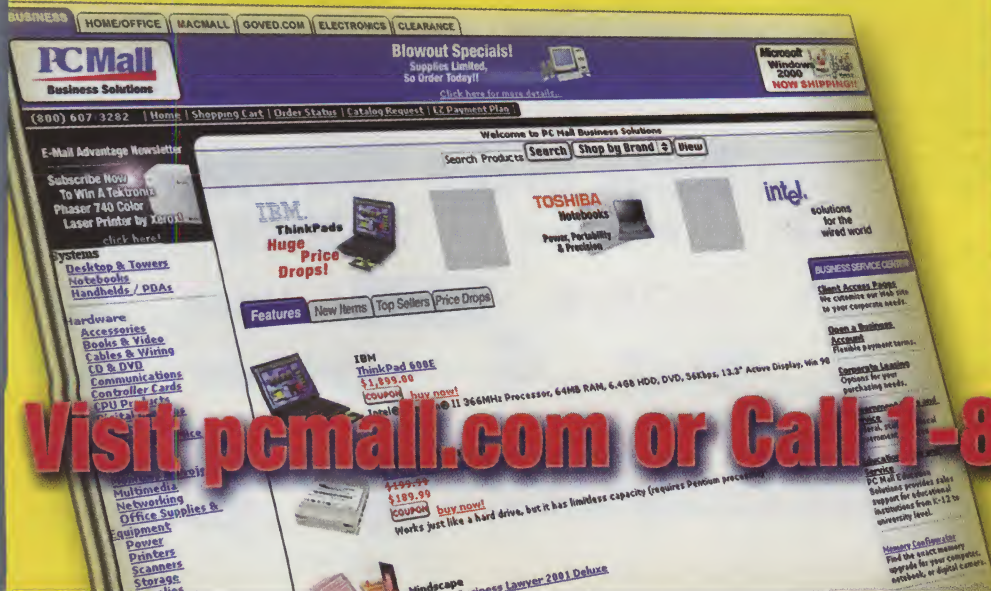
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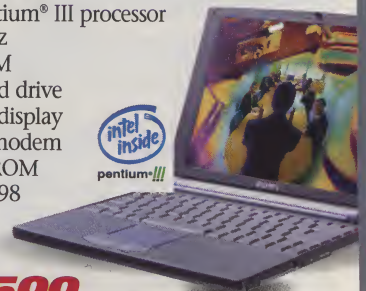
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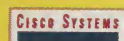
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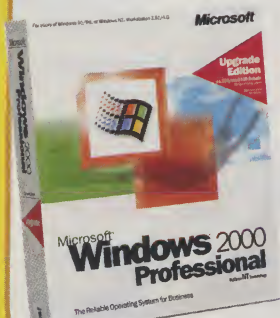


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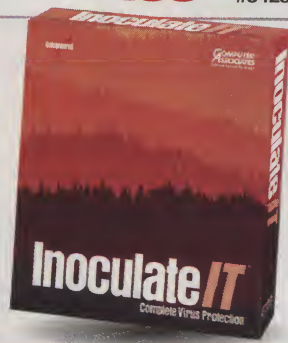
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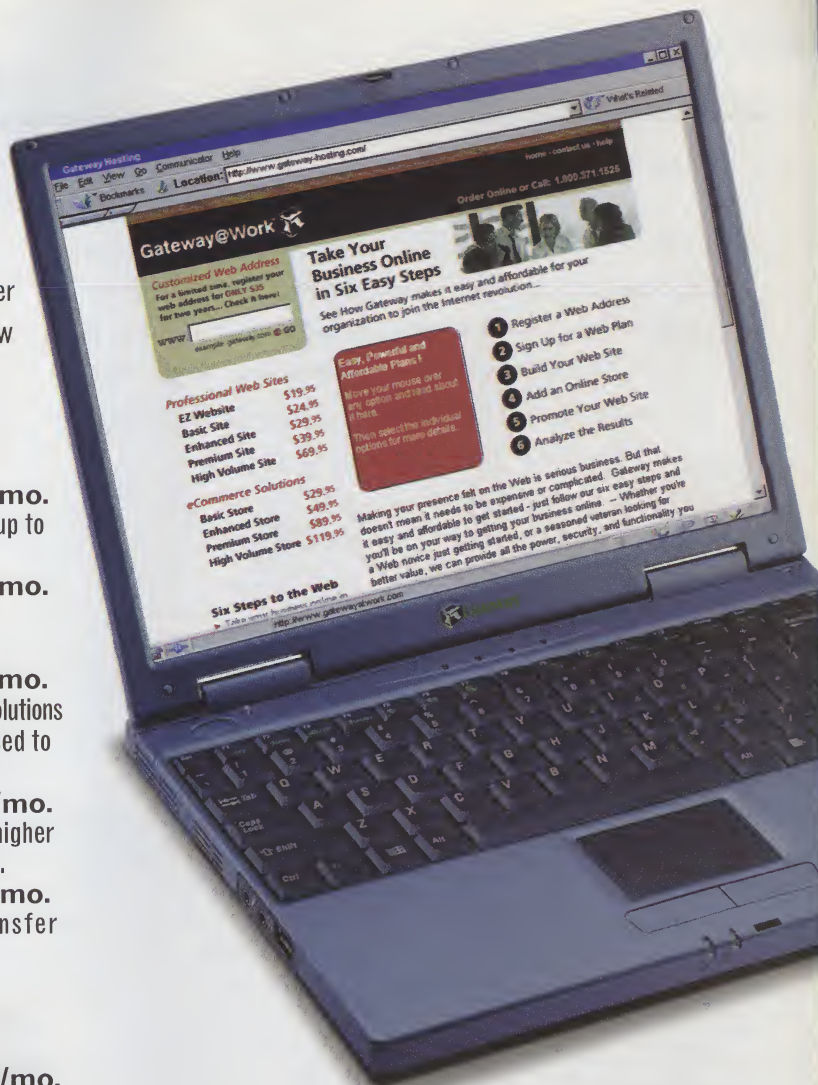
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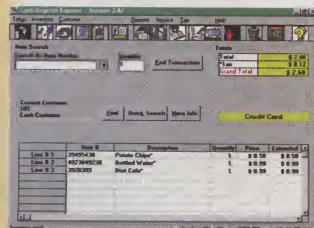
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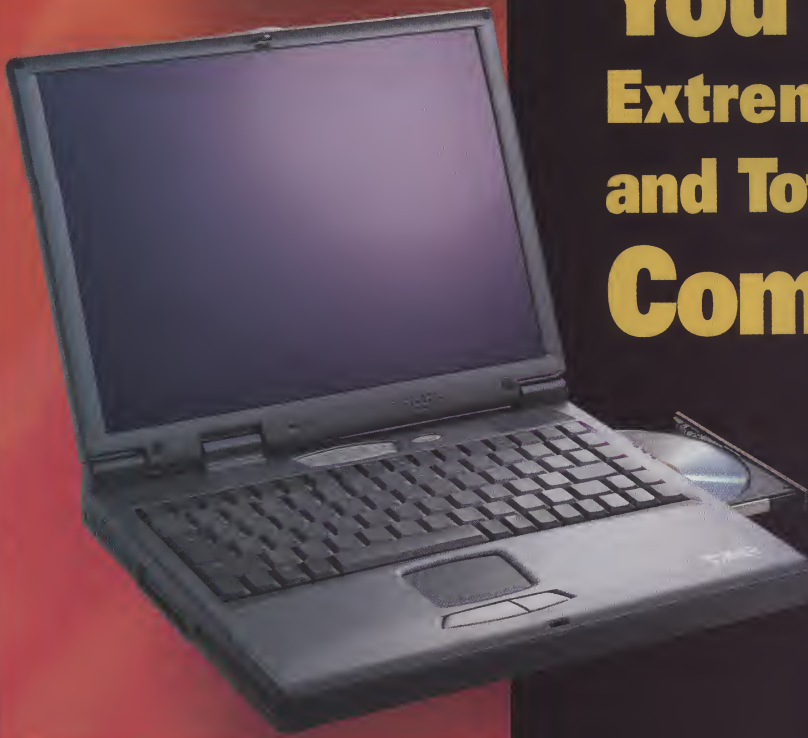
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Franklin eBookMan

Franklin Electronic Publishers
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www.franklin.com/ebookman

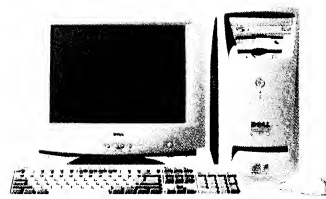
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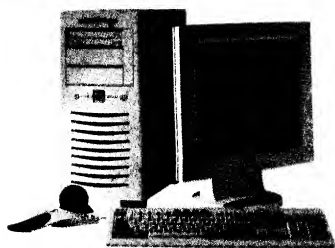
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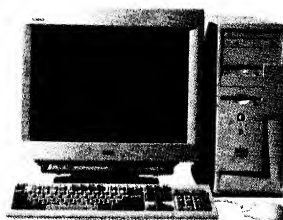
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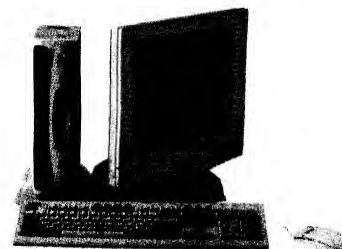
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- MS® Windows® 98 & Office 2000 Small Business
- 3-Yr Ltd. Warranty²; 1-Yr NBD On-site Service³

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BUSINESS LEASE: \$42/MO., 36 MOS.¹¹

- Ask about MS® Windows® Millennium Edition

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Network-Optimized Managed PC

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\$999  E-VALUE CODE
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BUSINESS LEASE: \$35/MO., 36 MOS.¹¹

DELL™ OPTIPLEX™ GX200

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- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 733MHz
- 128MB RDRAM (up to 512MB)
- 10GB⁵ SMART II ATA HD (up to 40GB⁵)
- 15" (13.8" vis) E550 Monitor (up to Flat Panel)
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- Integrated 8MB 4X AGP Graphics
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- 3-Yr NBD On-site Service³

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BUSINESS LEASE: \$52/MO., 36 MOS.¹¹

DELL™ PRECISION™ 220

Advanced Performance Workstation

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 733MHz (up to 933MHz)
- Dual Processor/RAID Capable
- 64MB RDRAM (up to 512MB)
- 20.4GB⁵ 7200 RPM EIDE HD (146GB Internal SCSI Storage Capacity)
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\$1799  E-VALUE CODE
05856-490817

BUSINESS LEASE: \$63/MO., 36 MOS.¹¹



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Dell™ PowerEdge™ Server

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BUSINESS LEASE: \$52/MO., 36 MOS.¹¹

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- Dell™ OpenManage™ Server Management Solutions
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BUSINESS LEASE: \$56/MO., 36 MOS.¹¹

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BUSINESS LEASE: \$49/MO., 36 MOS.¹¹

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\$2799  **E-VALUE CODE**
05857-290827

BUSINESS LEASE: \$98/MO., 36 MOS.¹¹

- Red Hat® Linux™ 6.2, add \$149

DELL™ INSPIRON™ 5000

Performance and Mobility Notebook

- Intel® Celeron™ Processor at 500MHz
- 15" XGA Active Matrix Display
- 32MB SDRAM; 6.0GB⁵ Ultra ATA HD
- Modular 24X Max Variable CD-ROM/Floppy Drive
- 2X AGP 4MB ATI RAGE Mobility™-P 3D* Video
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- Microsoft® Office 2000 Small Business
- Microsoft® Windows® 98, Second Edition
- 3-Yr NBD On-site Service³

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05857-890819

BUSINESS LEASE: \$66/MO., 36 MOS.¹¹

- Upgrade to CompleteCare™ Service²⁰, add \$169
- Ask about MS® Windows® Millennium Edition

DELL™ POWEREDGE™ 2450

Ultra-Slim (2U) Rack-Optimized Server

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 667MHz (up to 866MHz)
- Dual Processor Capable
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- 9GB⁵ 10K RPM Ultra3 SCSI HD (up to 36GB⁵)
- Up to 180GB Hot-swappable Internal Storage Capacity
- Integrated NIC/SCSI Controllers; 24X Max CD-ROM
- Dell™ OpenManage™ Server Management Solutions
- 3-Yr NBD On-site Service³; 7x24 Phone Support

\$3579  **E-VALUE CODE**
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BUSINESS LEASE: \$125/MO., 36 MOS.¹¹

- Single-channel RAID with 64MB Cache, add \$299
- Microsoft® Windows® 2000 Server²³, add \$799

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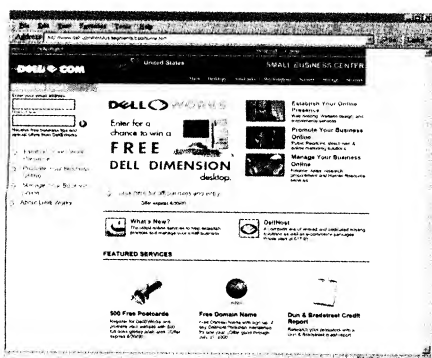
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PLUS \$20 ONE-TIME SETUP FEE

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(See review on p. 106.)

Quantex Microsystems • www.quantex.com • 877-229-0477

SOFTWARE

L&H Voice Xpress 5.0 Professional

Near-perfect hands-free interaction with your PC

Although voice-recognition software still hasn't made the keyboard obsolete, L&H Voice Xpress 5.0 Professional is the best example yet of no-hands computing. Among its standout features are an accuracy builder that scans your documents to learn your vocabulary and a command toolbar that sits on your desktop listing the most frequently used commands. A hands-down winner. (See review on p. 142.)

Lernout & Hauspie • www.lhs.com • 888-537-6688

Norton Personal Firewall

A must-have for broadband users

What makes Norton Personal Firewall better than its free competitor, Zone Labs' ZoneAlarm? How about added privacy protections, an automatic update feature, and the ability to customize firewall rules? Priced at only \$49.95, this package clearly gives you your money's worth. (See feature on p. 178.)

Symantec • www.symantec.com • 800-441-7234

GAMES

Tachyon: The Fringe

NovaLogic's first space-combat game aims for the stars.

With all of the new space-combat sims around these days, Tachyon could have easily been lost in the shuffle. However, this new title from NovaLogic is one of the genre's best, with an intriguing story line, amazing 3D graphics and effects, slick ship controls, and terrific multiplayer games. Deep space has rarely been so inviting. (See review on p. 148.)

NovaLogic • www.novalogic.com

800-858-1322



Tachyon: The Fringe

RECENT WINNERS

DESKTOPS

ABS Performance 3

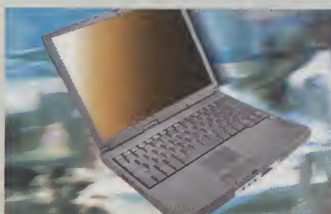
(August) The \$1,299 price of the Performance 3 connotes value, but the inclusion of a GeForce 256-based graphics card makes it clear this is not your typical budget system. Other standout features of this 667MHz Pentium III desktop include a 20.5GB hard drive and a three-piece Altec Lansing ACS45.2 speaker system.

ABS Computer Technologies
www.buyabs.com • 800-876-8088

MOBILE

Acer TravelMate 602TER

(July) This \$2,799 650MHz Pentium III Speed-Step notebook offers mobile executives nearly 5 hours of battery life in performance mode, as well as 128MB of RAM, a CD-RW drive,



8MB of graphics memory, and a 13.3-inch XGA display in a trim 5.25-pound magnesium-alloy case. Innovative in every way.

Acer America Corp. • www.acer.com
800-733-2237

micronpc.com TransPort ZX

(August) This 700MHz Pentium III speed demon delivers blazing performance, no-nonsense components, and outstanding battery life, all for \$2,999. Factor in micronpc.com's outstanding Advanced Portable Exchange warranty, and it all adds up to an affordable high-end system flexible enough to let you kiss your desktop goodbye.

micronpc.com • micronpc.com
888-224-4247

Quantex W-1511

(July) A desktop-replacement system with a 650MHz Pentium III processor, a 15-inch XGA display, a 12GB hard drive, and DVD, the \$2,749 Quantex W-1511 packs a lot into its 7.6-pound case—including 3 hours and 25 minutes of battery life in maximum-performance mode.

Quantex Microsystems
www.quantex.com • 800-346-6685

Shadowpack

(August) Whether you're a mobile infonaut or a compulsive online shopper, you'll crave the information-management capabilities that

Shadowpack puts at your fingertips. The free service, which can be used on PDAs, two-way pagers, and Net phones, helps you warehouse your personal information in ways that pay off in more personalized content and speedier online shopping.

Shadowpack • www.shadowpack.com
800-432-6201

HARDWARE

Epson Stylus Photo 870

(July) Although its \$299 price places the Stylus 870 on the high end of the inkjet category, its amazing image quality and fade-resistant inks give you incredible-looking prints that will last longer than traditional lab-processed photos.

Epson America • www.epson.com
800-463-7766

Lexmark Z52 Color Jetprinter

(August) You can't ask much more from a color inkjet printer than fast print speeds, beautiful-looking output, and a thrifty approach to consumables. Not only does the Lexmark Z52 offer all of this, but its inexpensive \$179 price makes it a bargain as well.

Lexmark International • www.lexmark.com
888-539-6275

Nikon Coolpix 990

(August) Nikon's newest Coolpix is not only one of the least expensive 3.3-megapixel cameras available, it's also one of the best. Backing

up its very competitive \$915 average price are razor-sharp images, excellent color accuracy, a range of useful features, and the ability to capture uncompressed images and QVGA video.

Nikon • www.nikonusa.com
800-526-4566

Sony DCR-PC100

(August) In addition to being one of the smallest and lightest Mini DV units available, the \$1,999 DCR-PC100 creates superior-looking video and still images. It's also extremely easy to use and



packs a wide range of advanced features.

Sony Electronics • www.sony.com
800-222-7669

SOFTWARE

Cakewalk Pro Audio 9

(July) Cakewalk has long been the leading choice for PC MIDI production. But the \$379 version 9 adds some compelling features of its

HARDWARE

Elsa Gladiac

The must-have graphics card for avid gamers

One of the first cards based on nVidia's incredible new GeForce2 GTS graphics accelerator, Elsa's \$329 Gladiac is second to none when it comes to offering the highest frame rates, resolution, and color depth possible for today's demanding 3D games. Although the Gladiac's price is considerably higher than those of cards based on the still-admirable GeForce 256 chip, it's money well-spent for the serious game player. [See review on p. 117.]

Elsa • www.elsa.com • 800-272-3572

Hitachi CM771

See what you've been missing with this 19-inch, flat-face CRT monitor.

The world's first flat-face, Invar shadow-mask CRT monitor is as easy on your eyes as it is on your wallet. Priced at about \$447, the 19-inch Hitachi CM771 gives you outstanding sharpness and brightness as well as a refreshingly straightforward control set. What's more, its short-neck tube results in a case that's only 17.7 inches deep, so it also goes easy on your desktop space. [See feature on p. 166.]

Hitachi America • www.hitachidisplays.com • 800-441-4832



Hitachi CM771

own, including new technology that dramatically improves response time when making changes during playback, and support for MP3, RealNetworks' G2, and Windows Streaming Media audio formats. **Twelve Tone Systems**
www.cakewalk.com • 800-234-1171

Microsoft Encarta Africana 2000 (August) Microsoft Encarta Africana 2000 shows how good educational software can be. Its robust search engine gives fast and easy access to the program's 6,500-plus articles, photos, maps, and multimedia clips, and its timelines put much of that same data into historical and cultural context. **Microsoft Corp.** • www.microsoft.com 888-218-5617

Microsoft Streets & Trips 2001 (August) With more than 6.3 million miles of streets and highways, the ability to save your maps as Web pages, and support for GPS receivers, Windows CE handhelds, and Pocket PC devices, Streets & Trips can take you where you want to go and make sure you get back safe and sound. **Microsoft Corp.** • www.microsoft.com 888-218-5617

MusicMatch Jukebox 5.0 (July) A first-rate MP3 player and recorder, the latest downloadable version of

MusicMatch adds support for Internet radio stations and CD burning. A powerful, versatile, and free program that belongs on any music lover's desktop. **MusicMatch** • www.musicmatch.com 858-385-1300

GAMES

Need for Speed: Porsche Unleashed (August) If you've ever wondered what it would be like to slip behind the wheel of a



Porsche, this game is for you. Not only do you get to race these amazing machines around 14 beautifully rendered courses, but two new modes let you buy and trade various models and even test-drive experimental vehicles. **Electronic Arts** • www.needforspeed.com 800-245-4525

Superbike 2000 (July) Test your driving skills on this two-wheeled version of Formula 1 racing.

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For reviews of this month's winners, go to p. 201.

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QuatraPro 9, Corel Presentation 9, Trellix 2
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QuatraPro 9, Corel Presentation 9, Trellix 2
17" .27 SVGA COLOR MONITOR PnP, 1280X1024

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Corel Office 2000: WordPerfect 9,
QuatraPro 9, Corel Presentation 9, Trellix 2
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QuatraPro 9, Corel Presentation 9, Trellix 2
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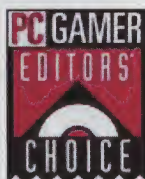


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Intel Pentium III 850	\$ 1359	C9022
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Intel Pentium III 750	\$ 1245	C9024
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Intel Pentium III 850	\$ 1409	CF903
Intel Pentium III 800	\$ 1309	CF904
Intel Pentium III 750	\$ 1295	CF905
Intel Pentium III 733	\$ 1245	CF906

POWER MAX 2000

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- ZOOM PCI 56K V.90 Fax Modem w/ Speaker Phone
- Mitsumi 1.44 MB Floppy Drive
- PS2 Win98 Keyboard & Internet Mouse
- ATX Medium Tower Case w/ 250 Watt UL
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- One Year On Site Service +\$29

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Intel Pentium III 800	\$ 999	CC902
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Intel Pentium III 733	\$ 937	CC904
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Intel CELERON 600	\$ 815	CC906

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- NVIDIA GeForce 256 32MB AGP Video Card
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- Mitsumi 1.44 MB Floppy Drive
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- ATX Medium Tower Case w/ 250 Watt UL
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Intel Pentium III 850	\$ 1429	C9073
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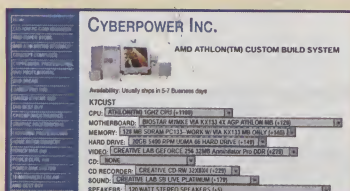
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AMD ATHLON 750	\$ 629	C9064
AMD DURON 700	\$ 565	C9065
AMD DURON 600	\$ 525	C9066
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Intel CELERON 600	\$ 515	C9068

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- 52X CD-ROM
- AC97 3D WAVETABLE Sound Card
- 450 Watt Subwoofer System w/ Satellite Speakers
- DIAMOND SUPRA 56K V.90 Fax Modem
- Mitsumi 1.44 MB Floppy Drive
- PS2 Win98 Keyboard & Internet Mouse
- ATX Medium Tower Case w/ 250 Watt UL
- Microsoft Windows 98 2nd Edition or Millennium
- Lotus Smart Suite Millennium Edition
- Cybervision C70 .27MM SVGA +\$189
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Intel Pentium III 800	\$ 845	C9032
Intel Pentium III 750	\$ 835	C9033
Intel Pentium III 733	\$ 789	C9034
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3. All entries must be received electronically by September 30, 2000.

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2. Prizes are: Grand Prize (1) *Computer Shopper* \$2,000 gift check; First Prize (1) *Computer Shopper* \$1,000 gift check; Second Prize (2) *Computer Shopper* \$500 gift check; Third Prize (9) *Computer Shopper* \$100 gift check. Winners will be selected in a random drawing from among all eligible ballots/entries received. Odds of winning are dependent on the number of entries received. All prizes will be awarded, and winners will be notified by mail, e-mail, or phone. Only one prize per individual or household. Prizes are nontransferable, and no substitutions are allowed, except by the sponsor, who reserves the right to award a prize of equal or greater value if advertised prize is unavailable. Sponsor and its agencies assume no responsibility or liability for damages, losses, or injury resulting from acceptance or use of any prize. ZD Inc., its agencies, and its employees are not responsible or liable for any guarantee or warranty either expressed or implied on any prizes awarded. Taxes, if any, related to the prize are the responsibility of the individual winners. 1099 tax statements will be filed with the IRS for major prize winners. Winners may be required to verify their address, or execute and return an affidavit of eligibility and liability/publicity release within 14 days of notification attempt, or the prize may be forfeited and an alternate winner selected. No responsibility is assumed for lost, misdirected, or late entries. Acceptance of prize constitutes permission to use winners' names and likenesses for publicity purposes without further compensation, except where prohibited by law. Sponsor and its agencies are not responsible for technical, hardware, or software malfunctions; lost or unavailable network connections; or failed, incorrect, inaccurate, incomplete, garbled, or delayed electronic communications, whether caused by the sender or by any of the equipment or programming associated with or used in this sweepstakes or by any human error that may occur in the processing of the entries in this sweepstakes. Sponsor reserves the right to cancel the online portion of the promotion if it becomes technically corrupted.
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3. **Vote electronically.** All entries must be received no later than September 30, 2000. Limit one entry per person.

Vote via the Web!

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Product

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Notebook PC
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PDA or Palmtop-Sized PC

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Product

Monitor (flat-panel or CRT)
Graphics Card
Hard Drive
DVD-ROM, CD-R, or CD-RW Drive
Home Network Card
Printer (inkjet, laser, or multifunction)
Scanner
Digital Still Camera
MP3 Player (hardware)

BEST SOFTWARE

Publisher

Product

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Game
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Notebook PCs
Web Appliances, PDAs, Web Phones
Monitors
Multimedia Products (graphics, audio, digital cameras, MP3 players...)
Storage Devices
Motherboards and Peripherals
Communication Products
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Software

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VP151
May 2000

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ViewSonic Model	Screen Viewable	Special Feature	Maximum Resolution	Analog Interface	Bezel Integrated Speakers
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VG150	15.0	WALL MOUNTABLE	1024 x 768	YES	
VP150	15.0	WALL MOUNTABLE	1024 x 768	YES	
VP151†	15.0	COMPOSITE VIDEO	1280 x 1024	DIGITAL/ANALOG	YES
VG151†	15.0	PIVOT	1024 x 768	DIGITAL/ANALOG	
VP181†	18.1	COMPOSITE VIDEO	1600 x 1200	DIGITAL/ANALOG	YES
VG181 ∞	18.1	PIVOT	1280 x 1024	DIGITAL/ANALOG	

† Currently audio, composite video and picture-in-picture features are supported via analog only. ∞ Also available in black bezel

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ViewSonic Model	CRT Size/Viewable	Horizontal Dot Pitch/Aperture Grille Pitch	Maximum Resolution	TCO Low Radiation
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PF775 *	17/16.0	0.25/AG	1600 x 1280	TCO '99
PS775 *	17/16.0	0.22	1600 x 1280	TCO '99
PF790 *	19/18.0	0.25-0.27/AG	1600 x 1280	TCO '99
PF795 *	19/18.0	0.25-0.27/AG	1920 x 1440	TCO '99
PS790 *	19/18.0	0.22	1600 x 1280	TCO '99
P810	21/20.0	0.22	1800 x 1440	TCO '99
P815 **	21/20.0	0.22	1800 x 1440	TCO '99
PF815 *	22/20.0	0.25-0.27/AG	1920 x 1440	TCO '99

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ViewSonic Model	CRT Size/Viewable	Horizontal Dot Pitch	Maximum Resolution	OnView®	Low Radiation
EF70 #	17/16.0	0.25/AG	1280 x 1024	YES	MPR-II
E655	15/13.8	0.24	1280 x 1024	YES	TCO '92
E771	17/16.0	0.24	1280 x 1024	YES	MPR-II
E773	17/16.0	0.23	1280 x 1024	YES	TCO '99
E790 ∞	19/18.0	0.23	1600 x 1280	YES	TCO '95

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Graphics Series

ViewSonic Model	CRT Size/Viewable	Horizontal Dot Pitch	Maximum Resolution	OnView Controls	TCO Low Radiation
G773	17/16.0	0.22	1280 x 1024	YES	TCO '92
GS773*	17/16.0	0.22	1280 x 1024	YES	TCO '92
GS790*	19/18.0	0.22	1600 x 1280	YES	TCO '92
G810	21/20.0	0.21	1600 x 1280	YES	TCO '99
GS815*	21/20.0	0.21	1920 x 1440	YES	TCO '99

*Short Depth Monitor

MultiMedia Series

ViewSonic Model	CRT Size/Viewable	Horizontal Dot Pitch	Maximum Resolution	TCO Low Radiation	Speakers
M50	15/13.8	0.24	1280 x 1024	TCO '92	2-watt (X2)
M70 ∞	17/16.0	0.24	1280 x 1024	TCO '92	2-watt (X2)
G70m	17/16.0	0.23	1280 x 1024	TCO '99	3-watt (X2)
G90m	19/18.0	0.22	1600 x 1200	TCO '99	3-watt (X2)

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Model	CRT Size/Viewable	Horizontal Dot Pitch	Maximum Resolution	Screen Treatment
Q41	14/13.2	0.24	1024 x 768	Anti-Static, Anti-Glare
Q51	15/13.8	0.24	1024 x 768	Anti-Static, Anti-Glare
Q55	15/13.8	0.24	1280 x 1024	Anti-Static, Anti-Glare, Anti-Reflection
Q71	17/16.0	0.23	1280 x 1024	Anti-Static, Anti-Glare, Anti-Reflection
Q75	17/16.0	0.21	1600 x 1200	Anti-Static, Anti-Glare, Anti-Reflection
Q95	19/18.0	0.23	1600 x 1200	Anti-Static, Anti-Glare, Anti-Reflection
Q115	21/19.6	0.22	1600 x 1200	Anti-Static, Anti-Glare, Anti-Reflection



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JOHN
BLACKFORD
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Print and Web: Working Together

E-tailers are rediscovering traditional media, including the power of print.

THE CELEBRATED DOT-COM CRASH OF MARCH BROUGHT Internet companies face to face with the business basic they'd trivialized: the need for profit. Now, Internet high-fliers who once raised easy money on vague promises are telling investors how and when their ventures will turn profitable.

Long gone are the days when Web merchants tried to promote their efforts via the Web alone. Unfortunately, many of them no sooner woke to the need

for promotion beyond the Web than they unleashed costly mass-market TV campaigns. Today's profit-hungry e-tailers are back to flying coach, though. As a result, many are shifting expensive TV campaigns into print ads—or catalog promotions.

The rediscovery of print media comes with an Internet twist: Web operators now use catalog mailings to drive new traffic to their sites—and to encourage users to purchase via the Web rather than by phone. The efforts are succeeding in bringing in new business to the sites and lowering the cost of doing business.

Because more than 50 percent of the U.S. population still lacks access to the Internet, catalogs that publish URLs help build demand for online buying. In fact, up to two-thirds of catalog users now indicate a preference for purchasing via the Web rather than by phone. It turns out that catalogs can also help balance load for merchandisers. Slow times online are somewhat predictable, based on seasonal and other factors. Because response to a well-produced catalog remains high for more than 30 days after a mailing, retailers can use catalogs with precision to build demand during otherwise slow periods.

Although the cost of printing and mailing is often cited as a liability of print media, catalogs match up well against such Web-only efforts as e-mail promotions. And because e-mail tends to get deleted or ignored within a few days, it's less useful in

managing demand levels than catalogs.

Web commerce and catalogs are complementary in other ways. Both require purchasing that's one step removed from the actual product, often without direct human assistance. As a result, the purchaser profile is similar for both. Inventory and fulfillment operations in both areas are nearly identical,



too. Even the production of catalogs is aided by the fact that Web stores typically have high-resolution images near at hand, poised for use as product shots in a catalog.

Because Web sites typically contain many more items than any catalog, the cata-

log usually points to only a portion of the listings, either very popular ones, or those the merchant wants to highlight, such as closeouts and specials. This allows retailers to promote a specific part of their inventory and plan for demand.

CONTENT POWER

Of course, the advantages of print media extend beyond merchandising in catalogs. *Computer Shopper* magazine, for example, has developed many links between the magazine and the Web—particularly to ZDNet, the site of our parent company. The goal is to harness the portability, graphical richness, and “personality” of print, matching it with the timeliness, depth, and searchability of the Web, to extend the print experience online, where actions can be taken (inventory checked or products purchased).

This print-Web connection is far bigger than any one company's efforts. Technology is making possible the interplay of all forms of media, with the Web as the glue that binds them together. And this process (despite endless publicity about the rise of the Web) is just beginning. Wireless PDAs and intelligent cell phones will add to the scope of the Internet. But just as television failed to replace radio (which simply migrated to the car radio and boom box), so the Web will coexist with other media. The Web, however, is an integrating media, able to incorporate the others. Television will soon be interactive, allowing viewers to access the Web directly. Likewise, cell phones and PDAs are in the process of morphing into miniature Web clients you can use to retrieve up-to-the-second data or to purchase products.

Still, print—magazines, newspapers, and catalogs—remains one step removed from the Internet. Until the advent of active paper (five to 10 years at least), print will remain outside the Web. Print media is, of course, very portable. That, combined with its graphical richness and personality, offers readers something they can recognize and affirm. That's why the Web is rediscovering print, soon to be the only non-wired media platform. Because print media lives outside the Web, it is ideally situated to provide analysis of and pointers to exciting Web happenings and locations. Providing such information remains our goal at *Computer Shopper*, especially where Web-savvy tech buying advice is concerned.

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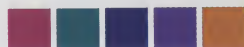
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JOHN DVORAK

The Killer App With No Future

Say hello—and goodbye—to the world's most useful travel companion.

OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS I'VE BEEN SOLICITING READERS for ideas on how people can use WAP phones and other new wireless Web appliances. I was looking for the killer app and found nothing. It was while watching a TV presentation about new experimental AT&T modules being developed by frogdesign (the designer of the first Macintosh and other fancy industrial designs) that I realized I was finally looking at a killer app of the highest order. Unfortunately, other factors will keep it from becoming a reality.

The app was actually a handheld device a little bigger than a Palm. The initial concept was that of a portable universal guidebook for tourists. It's a great idea, and it can even be expanded to something more powerful. Let me explain.

The device is slightly bigger than a handheld to accommodate a larger, more readable screen. But it can be smaller; in fact the concept could be built into a Handspring or Palm product. It has built-in GPS, so when in Rome—or Paris—you can use it to navigate to your location, find a restaurant, or even get instant information about the sights you're seeing. Using the GPS and built-in compass, you can point the device at, say, a church, and you'll receive textual information about it. Add an audio port, and information could be streamed to you through voice.

This concept could be taken a lot further. Point the device at a restaurant and get an instant Zagat review. Check out the menu or the wine list from across the street. You can even get hotel reviews while you're at it.

Such a tourist device could have numerous other features added to it. You could download a currency calculator for up-to-the-minute exchange rates, with the proper

currency determined by your GPS location. The device could also include a built-in translator or a universal phone. You'd order service over the Internet as needed.

Another valuable addition could be *Michelin Guides*, the world's most popular tourist guides. The *Michelin Red Guides* for Paris, Great Britain, and elsewhere are prob-



ably the greatest touring guidebooks in the world, invaluable when traveling through less-frequented parts of Europe. The problem is they're a little bulky. And if you're traveling to multiple countries, dragging around more than one of these books gets to be a burden, especially for those of us who like to travel light. Our GPS-enabled travel companion could do the same job over the wireless Internet without adding any bulk to your baggage.

You could even have a connection to Official Airline Guide (OAG) services. How handy would *that* be when you're bumped from a flight and standing in some line? And how about a messaging system and an e-mail reader while we're at it?

A device with these features and more is sure to exist some day. And there's no reason you can't stuff all this into a 3G phone, or a 3G phone into it.

LESS THAN USELESS

Now the bad news: "Some time soon" isn't part of the equation. The problem isn't the content-delivery mechanism or the technology, but the content itself—the lowest common denominator when it comes to such concepts. As cool as this idea is, the cost of design, manufacturing, and especially marketing will kill any chance of spending equal amounts for quality content. It won't be the *Michelin Guide* on these things, it'll be a warmed-over Yahoo or Travelocity or something without definitive content. It will be less than useless.

True usefulness is the great bugaboo of such high-tech schemes and outstanding ideas. First of all, technologists seldom care about content because they're focused on the hardware and the idea. Second, great content such as the *Michelin Guide* tends to be entrenched in old formats that are difficult and expensive to transfer. And even if it was transferred, the model for scanning through the *Guide* is cumbersome. The best you could do would be to make the device like one of those electronic-book readers. Even that's cumbersome when you're flipping around a guide looking for something.

Finally, what good is a device like this if it's not universal? How many databases would actually be available? To suppose every restaurant in Paris or New York would be cataloged, let alone every building and sight, is sheer folly. And who's going to do Des Moines? It's possible to incorporate independent Web sites so you could access a database of the sights of New York's Park Avenue or other parts of the city. But then coming up with a revenue model for both the device services and the individual Web sites would be a nightmare.

What we have here is another interesting killer app that can't be implemented in any meaningful way. What you get with devices and concepts like this is a gizmo that ultimately disappoints and kills the market for future development.

dvorak@dvorak.org

ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID KACMARNYSKI

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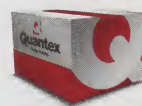
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JIM
O'BRIEN

Auctions Go Portal

How I used auction search services to cure my fixed-price snobbery.

IT'S NOT OFTEN I WRITE A CONFESSIONAL ADMITTING TO ANY e-commerce inexperience. If you can buy it on the Internet, I've closed the deal—books, music, video, electronics, computers, food, furniture, clothes, car, house (well, the research anyway). But the sad truth is I've never purchased at auction.

I've never really been one to pay inordinate amounts of cash for a vintage *Josie and the Pussycats* lunchbox, but the days of someone else's junk as eBay

staple are gone. Sure, the interactive Yoda doll is about to hit big as I write this, but it's equally easy to find new products sold by offline small businesses who repeatedly put the same item up for auction. I can no longer claim auctions don't provide the right product mix when lots of Palm Vs go up for sale with regularity.

Until now, I've smugly considered my e-tail channel superior to auctions. Show me a low price at an auction, I maintained, and I'll find it cheaper elsewhere on the Web before the bidding ends.

GET WITH THE PROGRAM

While I sat in my ivory e-tower, the rest of the online world was bidding. The latest Jupiter numbers reveal 37 percent of online users visit auction sites, and 52 percent are projected to visit in 2003.

As more companies use auctions to sell their products, it will be harder for anti-auction snobs such as myself to stay away. Rodrigo Sales, CEO and co-founder of auction search site AuctionWatch, predicts the stock-market correction of last spring will force businesses to be more selective about online sales channels and encourage larger fixed-price players to try auctions.

"Rather than spending tens of millions of dollars on national branding, businesses will look for more selective ways to acquire new customers," he says. "Auctions enable sellers to place goods where buyers are already congregating."

Online retailers are already dipping their

toes in auction waters. Longtime mail-order speaker manufacturer Cambridge SoundWorks, for instance, supplements its Hifi.com online store with regular postings on auction sites.

LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD

Auction search services may be just the edge fixed-price loyalists need to join the bidding. Like traditional shopping bots, auction search services let you compare and sort prices across multiple sites. As companies post more inventory across multiple auction sites, it becomes easier for auction shoppers

to compare prices for the same products—a major antidote to the gambling effect.

Early this year, eBay challenged such auction search services, often referred to as auction portals, over the way they were presenting eBay's listings and for "spidering" its site. A court ruled against auction portal Bidder's Edge, but by press time, the company developed a way to search eBay in real time in a separate pop-up window. Auction portals AuctionRover and BidXS have entered licensing agreements with eBay to change the way they search for and present listings. All this means is eBay results are now often separated from other listings, making comparisons more difficult.

Auction portals also let you track specific auctions, and some alert you by e-mail or pager when new items that match your specifications go on sale. And this year AuctionRover will offer localized auction searches by ZIP code for larger items that are difficult to ship long distances.

PORTALS STOP SNIPERS AND SHILLS

The easier it is to find the products you want, the lesser effect controversial practices such as sniping will have on your bidding behavior. Snipers operate by outbidding you in the final moments of an auction by a small increment. Some auction sites, such as Amazon Auctions, extend the auction to defeat such tactics, but there's always a chance you could lose to a sniper if you aren't paying attention. Auction portals may also help protect you against shills, who bid on their own products to pump up the price.

AuctionRover will offer sniping tools later this year, and both AuctionRover and AuctionWatch offer advice on how to spot shills. The best defense is to stick to your guns. And even if you lose, e-mail the seller, says AuctionWatch's Sales. You may be surprised how often a seller will agree to your price on the spot.

Just as auction search tools will eliminate price disparities among auctions, they'll also make it harder to get dramatically better deals than fixed-price e-tailers, which has always been my point. But these search tools are just another way of finding a price you're comfortable with, so there's no need to pick a side.

jobrien_eshopper@mail.com

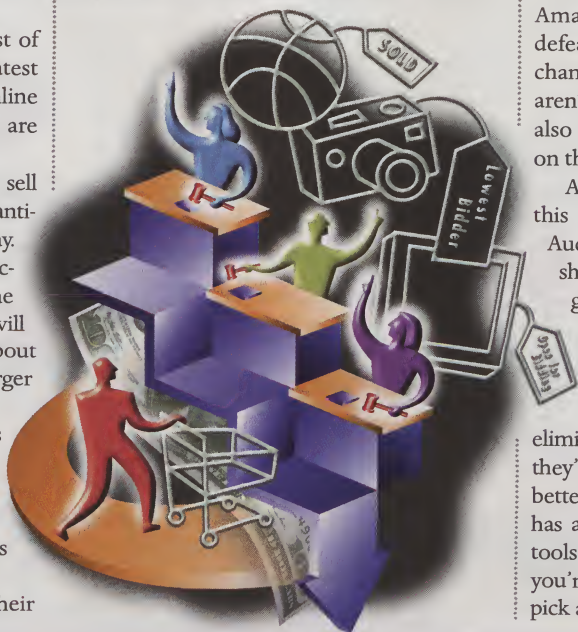


ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN BLECK

**MICHAEL
SLATER**

The Internet Is Just Warming Up

Broadband, always-on connections will make a new breed of information appliances useful and practical.

THE INTERNET CHANGES EVERYTHING. IT'S ALREADY changed retailing, financial markets, the media industries, and business-to-business relationships. It's no longer hard to imagine why ordinary people want Internet access both at home and while traveling. This desire will drive the market for information appliances. Yet despite all its success the Internet is immature. We mustn't assess information appliances' prospects based on the state of the Internet today, but on its potential. The technology that will help

information appliances achieve their potential is always-on broadband access. It will take time for broadband to become widespread, but there's no doubt it will—and it will make the Web far more useful.

Along with always-on Net connections, home networks will become widespread. With a home network, many devices can share Internet access using a single modem and Internet service provider. When Internet connectivity becomes a utility, whose existence can be assumed by device makers just like they assume the existence of power and phone lines, new kinds of information appliances will become practical.

INTERNET RADIO

Kerbango, for instance, is preparing a radio that receives streaming audio from the Internet, providing access to thousands of stations worldwide. But you wouldn't want to use such a device with a dial-up modem connection. Not only is bandwidth marginal, but you have to consume a phone connection to listen to the radio. With an always-on Internet connection, and a home network to distribute it, an Internet radio makes sense. This is just one example of how always-available Internet connectivity will change our world.

Always-on, broadband connections will also spur dramatic improvements in the depth and quality of Internet

content. Web content still has a long way to go to match what already exists in print form. Most online catalogs, for instance, rely on databases. At best, they're only effective if you know exactly what you're looking for. For browsing, however, online catalogs are far inferior to print catalogs. Faster connections will help, but developers have to put much more thought and effort into building the online experience.

Part of the problem has been a shortage

of talented people to create these interactive designs. And the ease with which Web sites can be changed, combined with the rapid pace of the Internet, has created its own problems: It's seductively easy to put up a hastily designed site with the intention of fixing it later.

In the long run, however, online catalogs will be far more useful, featuring three-dimensional models of products you can rotate and view from different angles. A few sites already offer this, but it's so labor-intensive to create that it's still rare.

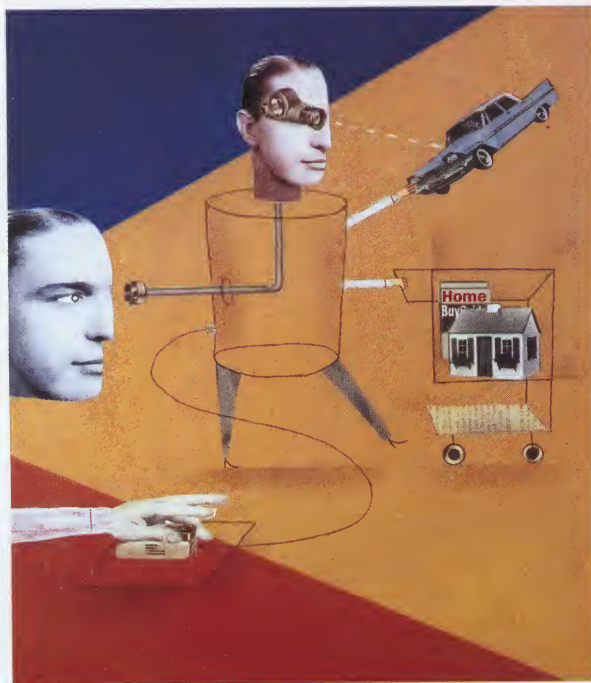
In some ways, the Web has set computing back dramatically. Web pages are a terrible way to implement a user interface; the latency after each click, the limited control over presentation, and the limited access to a computer's resources (such as storage) all degrade the experience compared to what you can accomplish with a local program. But the benefits of universal connectivity and compatibility are so great that the trade-off has been worth it. As Internet technologies develop, we will regain some of the responsiveness that's been lost.

One way you can dramatically improve the Web's perceived performance is to download pages in the background, store them on disk, and access them offline. If you visit a Web site regularly you still have to wait while each page loads. If you shift to an offline viewing mode, you can view richer pages in less time. Current browsers and other applications make this possible, but it hasn't been widely adopted because it's difficult to use.

I WANT MY DTV

Digital television, while separate from the Internet, will be another growth area. This technology will change the landscape by providing a high-bandwidth digital pipe into most homes. Much of this bandwidth will be used for video broadcasts, but some will be used for data broadcasts. A single channel can deliver 20Mbps, which translates to more than 200GB per day—enough to send vast amounts of news, weather, and other information. You'd select the information you want to receive, and the receiver would monitor this massive stream and capture only the data of interest. The shift to a new world of information—and the devices that access it—is just beginning.

michael@mslater.com






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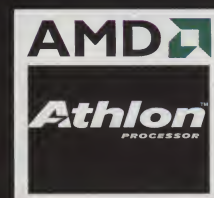
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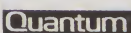
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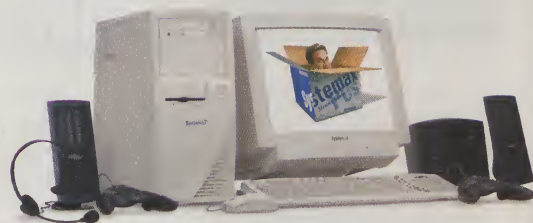
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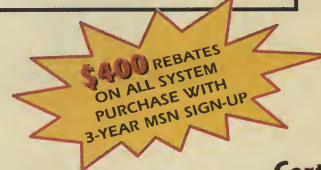
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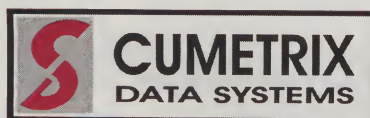
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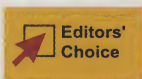
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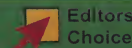
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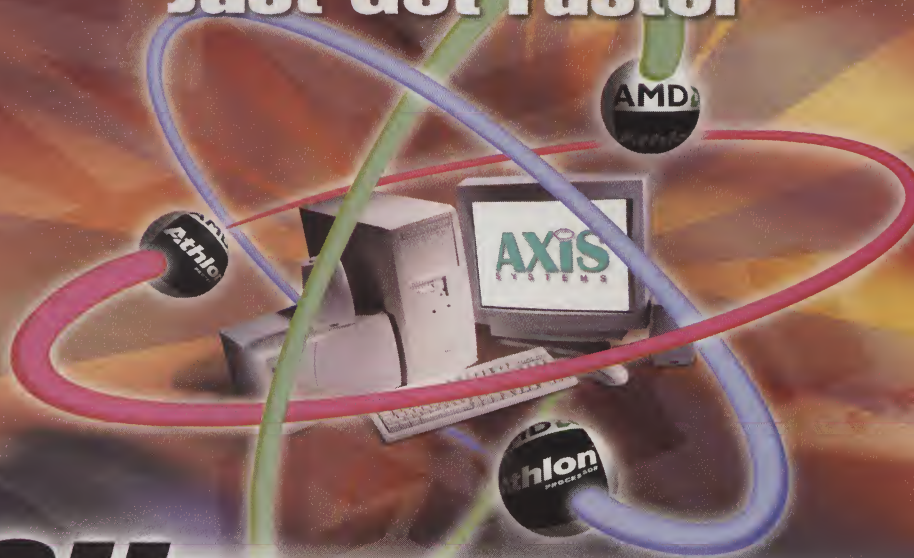


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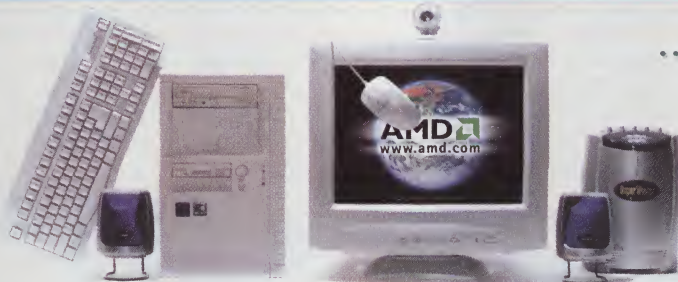
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DESKTOPS

VISION CADILLAK V866

Get Behind the Wheel of a CADillak

A CADILLAC MAY NOT BE THE AUTOMOBILE OF CHOICE FOR everybody, but there's no denying that its opulent extras will be appreciated by anyone who prizes luxury sedans. The problem with luxury, however, is that while it's something many of us would like to have, far fewer of us can actually afford it. Vision Computers, with its \$2,750-direct CADillak V866 CAD workstation, is hoping that the robust features this system offers will appeal to users who need a high-end graphics workstation and who have a sufficiently large budget.

Under the CADillak's hood is an 866MHz Pentium III, 256MB of SDRAM, an nVidia GeForce 256-based graphics card with 32MB of DDR SGRAM, and a 34GB hard drive. (By the time you read this, the system will come standard with a 40GB drive.) It also includes a 52x CD-ROM drive, an 8x/4x/32x CD-RW drive, a 56Kbps modem, and a 10/100Mbps network interface card. Due to hardware-compatibility issues, Vision has chosen to outfit the system with Windows 98 Second Edition, rather than Windows NT or Windows 2000. These higher-end operating systems are often the preferred platform for CAD users. But because all of Vision's systems are configurable, you could easily opt for a different operating system as long as you are also willing to change some of the system's components.

Though it lacks a DVD-ROM drive, the CADillak would make an excellent high-performance gaming system, and because Vision includes a pair of Asus 3D VR glasses with the computer, the company must think so as well. You'll find full versions of *Psygnosis' Drakan* and *Rollcage*. The glasses can also be used with *Motor Racer II*, *Tomb Raider II*, *Incoming*, *Turok II*, *Need for Speed III*, *Fight Force*, and many other games. The graphics card provides composite and S-Video output ports, as well as an S-Video input for video capture.

For a GeForce 256-based system, the CADillak puts out some of the fastest 3D-graphics performance we've seen. A score of 125 on the 3D WinMark 2000 bench-

mark at 800x600 is a strong indication that you'll see high frame rates in even the most demanding games. The system's 2D-graphics performance is equally impressive, as shown by its 359 score on Business Graphics WinMark 99. If you want to eke out even faster 3D performance, you could opt for a GeForce2 GTS-based graphics card at no additional cost. If you take this route, however, the faster card does not come bundled with the 3D VR glasses.

Perhaps the only place the CADillak disappoints is with its hard drive performance—it's swift, but it doesn't quite measure up to what we've seen with similarly configured systems. Nevertheless, this doesn't seem to hamper the CADillak's application performance: Its Business Winstone 99 score of 31.4 will

have your programs running plenty fast.

A 19-inch Princeton Graphics Ultra 92 CRT, with an 18-inch viewing area and a 0.26mm diagonal dot pitch, provides a sharp and bright image relatively free from geometric distortions. The audio subsystem, on the other hand, leaves something to be desired. The Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Value

sound card and two-piece Labtec LCS-1030 speakers provide adequate sound, but a buzz can be heard when the volume is turned up past the halfway point.

The CADillak's 17x7.5x16.5-inch (HWD) midtower case comes with two vacant front-accessible drive bays. Despite the PCI modem, sound card, and network interface card, one shared slot and two PCI slots remain free. One of four DIMM sockets is occupied, and the system supports up to 2GB of 133MHz SDRAM.

The CADillak is covered for parts and labor for three years, with onsite service for the first year. The onsite coverage can be extended to two years for \$100 or three years for \$150. Vision's toll-free 24-hour daily technical support is handled through a third party, Micro Warranty Service. The on-hold time is minimal, and the technicians seemed courteous and knowledgeable when we called.

The Vision CADillak V866 should be a highly capable system for the graphics professional, and with the added extras, it could find an equally appropriate home on the desk of a gaming enthusiast. Users in both camps should also remember that because Vision typically builds custom configurations, changing the CADillak's components and operating system is as simple as asking.

—Bill O'Brien



★★★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS
 Strong 3D-graphics and application performance; high-quality components
 Expensive; disappointing hard drive performance; lackluster sound system

SYSTEM:
Vision CADillak V866
COMPANY: Vision Computers
Tempe, AZ
800-690-6771, 480-921-8999
www.visionman.com
AS TESTED: 866MHz Pentium III; 256MB SDRAM; 34GB hard drive; 52x CD-ROM drive; 8x/4x/32x CD-RW drive; Asus AGP-6800 graphics card with 32MB DDR SGRAM; Asus 3D VR glasses; 19-inch Princeton Graphics Ultra 92 monitor; Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Value sound card; Labtec LCS-1030 stereo speakers; 56Kbps modem; 3Com EtherLink 10/100 network card; Microsoft Works 2000; additional software
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19", .26mm Dot Pitch Monitor (18" viewable)

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Doug Wriston

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DESKTOPS

QUANTEX SM933SX

Computing With Class



EVERY NOW AND THEN A PC COMES ALONG THAT HAS JUST THE right blend of leading-edge technologies, producing a desktop system that delivers superior performance and quality components. Quantex Microsystems has put such a system together with its SM933sx, which sells for an equally potent direct price of \$2,899.

Based on a fast 933MHz Pentium III processor, the SM933sx also includes 128MB of 800MHz RDRAM. The system's Creative Labs 3D Blaster Annihilator 2 graphics adapter uses the latest graphics accelerator chip from nVidia Corp., the superfast GeForce2 GTS. The graphics card has 32MB of DDR memory—the fastest consumer-level graphics memory currently available. A 40GB Maxtor hard drive with a rotational speed of 7,200 rpm rounds out the SM933sx's impressive specs.

This is the kind of system that a game enthusiast or graphic designer could have only imagined a year ago. Nevertheless, Quantex is not positioning the SM933sx as part of its GX series of gaming desktops—even though it has many of the features that an avid gamer would want (minus the bundled games and game controller). It also doesn't fit into Quantex's SB business series of desktops, which features Windows 2000 and several advanced network-management programs. Rather, Quantex's SM series straddles the fence between home and office desktops with a strong emphasis on the latest multimedia components. Given its 10/100Mbps network interface card, this system would be ideal as a networked graphics workstation for a small business, or as a high-end game or multimedia desktop in a broadband-connected home. For most other purposes, however, this configuration may be overkill, though it's hard to resist the urge to own such a powerful rig.

Given its state-of-the-art components, it's no surprise that the SM933sx fared extremely well on all of our benchmark tests. The SM933sx's Business Winstone 99

score of 33.3 placed it among the highest scores we've seen—even rivaling the performance of the two 1GHz Pentium III-based systems from this month's roundup of 1GHz systems. (See "Computing at Giga Speed" in this issue.) Moreover, the SM933sx's scores of 184 and 141 on 3D WinMark 2000 at 800x600 and 1,024x768, respectively, represent the fastest 3D-graphics performance we've seen to date. (Of course, we expect that as we start seeing more systems using the new GeForce2 GTS graphics engine, this lightning-fast level of 3D performance will quickly become old news.) Even the SM933sx's hard drive and 2D-graphics performance are top-notch.

The rest of the system's components are equally well-suited to its high-end nature. The SM933sx includes both a Toshiba 12x DVD-ROM drive and an 8x/4x/32x Sony CD-RW drive, as well as a Creative Labs

Sound Blaster Live Value sound card and Cambridge SoundWorks FPS2000 Digital speakers. The four satellite speakers come with detachable stands, so you can position the speakers either on your desktop or off to the side, and the large subwoofer fits easily under your desk. The Quantex-branded 19-inch monitor uses a Mitsubishi Natural Flat Diamondtron picture

tube, displaying a sharp, bright image.

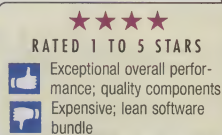
The SM933sx uses a midtower case that provides a single empty 5.25-inch bay, plus two unoccupied 3.5-inch front-accessible bays. Even though the system has two vacant PCI slots, all of the IRQs are used up. This malady is not uncommon in fully equipped multimedia systems, but it could cause problems if you want to add IRQ-hungry peripherals in the future.

The system comes standard with Corel WordPerfect Office 2000, but Microsoft Office 2000 Small Business is available for another

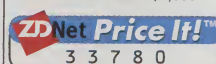
\$129. Also bundled with the system is Quantex's Software Essentials, which includes the DVD version of the 1999 Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia and several Internet-related programs and utilities. Quantex backs the SM933sx with a three-year parts-and-labor warranty, with the first year of service covered onsite. You can extend the onsite service to a total of three years for \$200, or four years for \$270. Toll-free technical support is available around the clock.

The Quantex SM933sx provides an excellent mix of the latest hardware components. The software bundle is a bit skimpy, but this computer isn't targeted to first-time users who might be looking to build a software collection. For game fans and multimedia addicts with deep pockets, it doesn't get much better than this—at least until the next generation of components appears.

—David English



SYSTEM: Quantex SM933sx
COMPANY: Quantex Microsystems
Somerset, NJ
877-229-0477, 732-563-4166
www.quantex.com
AS TESTED: 933MHz Pentium III; 128MB 800MHz RDRAM; 40GB hard drive; 12x DVD-ROM; 8x/4x/32x CD-RW drive; Creative Labs 3D Blaster Annihilator 2 with 32MB DDR memory; 19-inch Quantex XP190DF monitor; Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Value sound card; five-piece Cambridge SoundWorks FPS2000 Digital speakers; 56Kbps modem; 10/100Mbps Ethernet card; Corel WordPerfect Office 2000; additional software
DIRECT PRICE: \$2,899



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"The [SM-Series] includes all the trappings one would expect in a high-end PC." *Computer Shopper*, 2/00

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CD-ReWritable Drive
10/100 PCI Network Card—Broadband Ready
Advanced Creative Labs Sound
Cambridge SoundWorks FPS2000 5-Piece Speakers
Microsoft Office 2000 SBE
3-Year Limited Warranty
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12x Max Variable Speed DVD-ROM Drive
10/100 PCI Network Card—Broadband Ready
Advanced Creative Labs Sound
Altec Lansing ACS-33 Speakers w/Subwoofer
Microsoft Office 2000 SBE
3-Year Limited Warranty
One-Year Limited On-Site Service
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12x Max Variable Speed DVD-ROM Drive
Dynamic Wavetable Stereo Sound
3-Piece Stereo Speakers w/Subwoofer
Corel WordPerfect Office 2000
3-Year Limited Warranty
One-Year Limited On-Site Service
MS® Windows® Millennium Edition Upgrade Coupon?

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With Quantex you get it all—proven performance, award-winning service and reliability, and a truly amazing value. Our SM-Series Desktops incorporate the latest technologies in a box designed to maximize your overall experience (and save you a few bucks). For one, they're powered by the fastest Intel® Pentium® III processors! Combine that with a whole host of other top-notch name-brand components and you've got state-of-the-art performance even when running the most intense multimedia applications, games, DVD, the Internet and more. Get a Quantex and you're in for the most dazzling PC experience yet.



Quantex SM933x Performance Desktop Pictured*

SM-Series

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Business lease: \$40/Mo., 36 Mos.

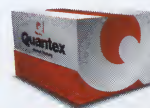
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QUANTEX M600c Affordable Desktop Solution

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 Corel WordPerfect Office 2000
 3-Year Limited Warranty
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[Feature Fantastic

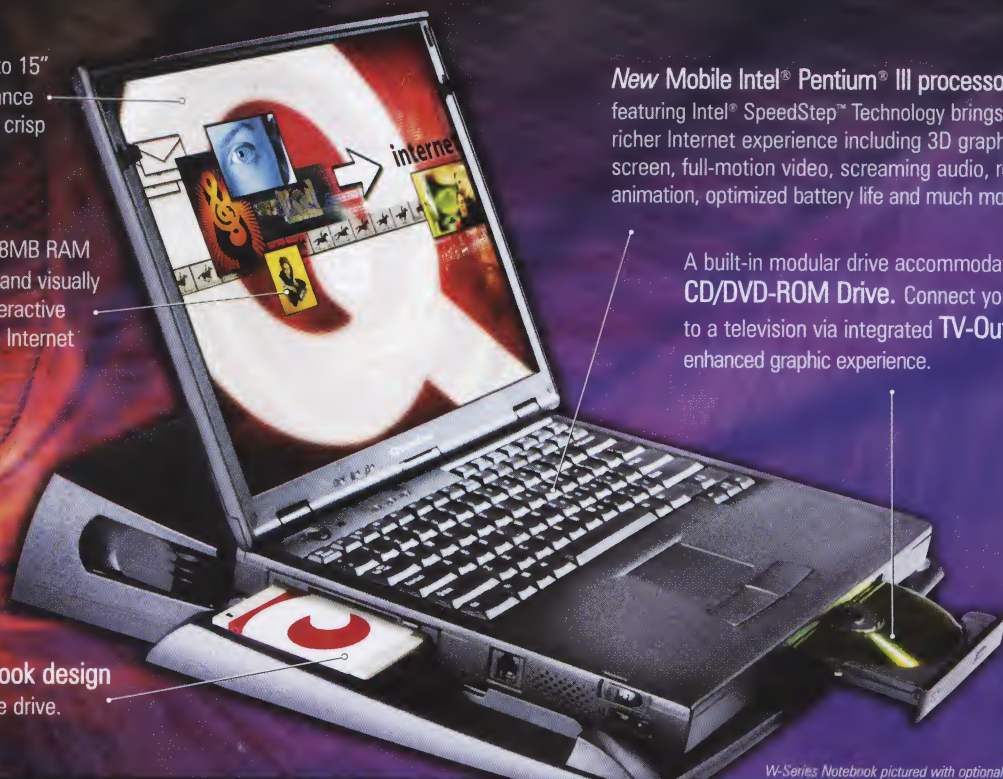
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Mobile Intel® Pentium® III Processor 700MHz featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology

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Quantex Deluxe Carrying Case Included!

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Corel Office 2000

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Modular 24x Max Variable Speed CD-ROM Drive

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*Quantex W-1500 Notebook pictured
with optional mini-docking station*

W-Series **BEST BUY**

Desktop Replacement Notebook

New Mobile Intel® Pentium® III Processor
750MHz featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
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128MB PC100 SDRAM Memory
New 20GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
Modular 8x Max Variable Speed DVD-ROM Drive
ATI Mobility P Graphics w/8MB, TV-Out
Quantex **Deluxe Carrying Case** Included!
Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional
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Connect your external mouse
and keyboard to the two
PS/2 Ports.

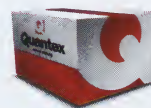
With a **TV-Out Port** you can
connect your PC to your TV.

Two USB Ports allow you to
connect any USB compatible
device to your docking station.

A **LAN Port** will allow
easy connection to an
Ethernet Network.



*W-Series Mini-Docking
Station Pictured*



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[Solid Specs



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Advanced Creative Labs Sound
Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional
3-Year Limited Warranty
One-Year Limited On-Site Service*

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128MB ECC SDRAM (1GB Max)
30GB 7200rpm Ultra ATA-66 Hard Drive
Intel® 10/100 PCI Fast Ethernet Controller w/WOL
19" High-Resolution Digital Monitor (18" vis)
3DLabs Oxygen VX1 3D AGP Graphics, 32MB
Advanced Creative Labs Sound
Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional
3-Year Limited Warranty
One-Year Limited On-Site Service*
Upgrade to 3DLabs GVX1 32MB Graphics for \$499

\$1999

Business lease: \$73/Mo., 36 Mos.
❏-QUOTE NUMBER: csa09z04



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nVidia TNT2 Vanta 16MB AGP Graphics
48x Max Variable Speed CD-ROM Drive
10/100 PCI Fast Ethernet Controller w/RJ-45
Advanced Creative Labs Sound
Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional
3-Year Limited Warranty
One-Year Limited On-Site Service
Upgrade to nVidia TNT2 32MB Graphics for \$59

\$1299

Business lease: \$47/Mo., 36 Mos.
-QUOTE: csa09b36

QUANTEX SB566c

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Intel® Celeron™ Processor 566MHz
64MB High-Performance SDRAM Memory
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15" Digital Monitor w/On-Screen Display
Intel 2D/3D Graphics Accelerator
48x Max Variable Speed CD-ROM Drive
Dynamic Wavetable Stereo Sound
10/100 PCI Fast Ethernet Adapter w/RJ-45
MS Windows 98 Second Edition
MS® Windows® Millennium Edition Upgrade Coupon²
3-Year Limited Warranty
One-Year Limited On-Site Service⁺

\$799

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Quantex ZX800s Workstation

SB-Series

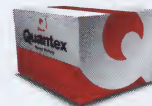
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Affordable Desktop Solution

Intel® Pentium® III Processor 733MHz
64MB High-Performance SDRAM Memory
10GB Ultra ATA-66 Hard Drive
17" High-Resolution Digital Monitor
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Dynamic Wavetable Stereo Sound
10/100 PCI Fast Ethernet Adapter w/RJ-45
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3-Year Limited Warranty
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There's never been a more affordable, no-fuss solution for businesses looking to deploy new e-business servers. Rack-mountable with innovative "headless" installation (no VGA, keyboard or monitor necessary) for quick, high volume deployment, new Quantex IS-Series Servers come bundled with the rock solid Red Hat Linux operating system and also offer robust remote management capabilities. They feature industry-leading hardware components built on superior open platforms based on Intel Architecture for seamless integration into your current network. And with innovative new 1U and 2U Rack Dense form factors, Quantex IS-Series Servers will easily grow with your business.

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1U: 1.75"H x 22"L x 16.75"D

2U: 3.5"H x 24"L x 16.75"D

QUANTEX QX4100

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Dual-Processor Upgradable
Tower Case (5U Rack-Mount Upgrade Available)
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Add MS Windows 2000 server for \$799

\$1999

Business lease starting at: \$73/Mo., 36 Mos.

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2U Scalable Internet Server

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Dual-Processor Upgradable
Compact 2U Rack-Server Design
128MB ECC SDRAM (2GB Max)
9GB Ultra2/LVD SCSI Drive (220GB Max.)
Dual Intel Pro/100 NICs w/Adapter Fault Tolerance and Adaptive Load Balancing
Ultra2/LVD SCSI Controller
3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive & Slimline CD-ROM
Two Full-Size 32-bit PCI Slots
4 Hot-Swap RAID Capable Drive Bays
275 Watt Power Supply
Red Hat Linux w/Apache Web Server

\$2599

Business lease starting at: \$94/Mo., 36 Mos.

❗-QUOTE: csa09q72

QUANTEX IS1000

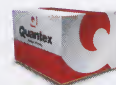
1U High-Density Internet Server

Intel® Pentium® III Processor 700MHz
Headless Installation for Mass Server Deployment
Compact 1U Rack-Server Design
128MB ECC SDRAM (1GB Max)
10GB 7200rpm Ultra ATA-66 Hard Drive
Dual Intel Pro/100 NICs w/Adapter Fault Tolerance and Adaptive Load Balancing
3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
Two 32-bit PCI Slots (1 Low-Profile)
Single Screw Access to Top Cover; Tool-Less Access to Hard Drives
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Red Hat Linux w/Apache Web Server

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Business lease: \$65/Mo., 36 Mos.

❗-QUOTE: csa09q62



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GSA Contract #GS-35F-0049K

Additional Features: ISC Management Console on QX4100 & IS2000, ASM Management Console on IS1000, Emergency Management Port on QX4100 & IS2000, 3-Year Limited Warranty with Lifetime Toll-Free Hardware Support, 30-Day Conditional Money Back Guarantee
Phone Hours: M-F: 9a.m.-6p.m. (EST).

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*Quantex SM923: Power Desktop shown with optional speakers. Windows 2000 statistics as reported from the Aberdeen Group. Quantex 56K Internet Fax/Modems support the ITU V.90 standards. Max transmission speed of up to 56Kbps when downloading and 33.6Kbps when uploading data. Actual speeds may vary based on line conditions. *Coupon only provided on systems ordered between July 15, 2000 and October 15, 2000 and configured with Windows 98 Second Edition. *Quantex SB733s Business Desktop shown with optional Zip drive. Quantex is a registered trademark of Quantex Microsystems, Inc. Intel, Pentium and the Intel Inside logo are registered trademarks, Celeron and Intel SpeedStep are trademarks of Intel Corporation. All other names and products mentioned are properties of their respective company.

HARDWARE

Versatile Video Cameras For Your PC Desktop

WITH THE UBIQUITY OF DVD MOVIES AND DOWNLOADABLE VIDEO clips, video on the PC has practically become part of our daily computing lives. Why not create your own simple video clips or indulge in the next level of PC-based communication, videoconferencing? One of these three inexpensive and easy-to-install USB-based PC cameras will let you e-mail video clips of the kids to Grandma, have a real-time video chat with your overseas pals, or even monitor what's going on at home while you're at the office.

IBM/XIRLINK PC CAMERA

PRO MAX ★★★★★

PROS: Good motion-video quality; generous software bundle
CONS: Large file size for captured video

The \$129-estimated PC Camera Pro Max, manufactured for IBM by Xirlink, has none of the contoured shapes you'll find on some current PC cameras. It's a 2x4.5x1-inch box camera, but what it lacks in stylish curves, it more than makes up for in performance.

The Pro Max delivered some of the smoothest video we've seen. Not only was there no blurring or stuttering visible with the live image on our 600MHz Pentium III system, but captured video—whether from the camera's lens or from the Pro Max's composite-video input jack—played back extremely well.

Captured video will, however, quickly chew up your hard drive space. The Pro Max doesn't use any compression when capturing, except at 176x144. As a result, for 19 seconds of 352x240 video, for example, the camera uses nearly 70MB. If you plan on e-mailing video clips, you'll need to stick to the small-size capture window.



The PC Camera Pro Max comes with a healthy software bundle that handles basic camera operations, as well as video and snapshot editing, videoconferencing, and video mail. If you register online, you can get four more software titles sent to you for a \$6.95 handling fee.

INTEL PC CAMERA PRO PACK ★★★★★

PROS: Good software bundle; long USB cable
CONS: Dropped frames during video capture

Picking up where last year's PC Camera Pack left off, Intel has released the PC Camera Pro Pack. The new \$129-direct package comes with the same attractive software bundle as the original, but the

camera has some added features. (The \$129 price doesn't factor in a \$30 rebate.)

Image quality is good, but we noticed a significant

number of dropped frames in captures created with both the camera and the composite-video input. The camera can be attached to any flat surface using double-sided tape, or it can be mounted to a tripod if you remove the camera's base. A generous 9-foot cable gives you a lot of latitude for camera placement, and the composite-video jack is located on the back of the 4x2.75x1-inch camera body, where it's not in the way.

The bundled software uses a simple point-and-click approach to let you capture audio, video, or still images, as well as create video postcards, edit your videos, and communicate by videoconference. You can even set the software to take motion-triggered or interval-scheduled snapshots.

X10 XRAY VISION ★★★★★

PROS: Wireless connection; unique security device
CONS: Uneven video-image quality

X10 takes a rather unconventional approach with its wireless XRay Vision kit. Although it can operate as a regular PC camera, the \$129.99 package is marketed more as a security or snooping device.

The XRay Vision uses X10's XCam2, a wireless color camera about the size of a golf ball that transmits images at 2.4GHz (at a range of up to about 150 feet) to a wireless receiver. The receiver then sends the video signal to a composite-video device, such as a VCR, or to your PC with the included USB converter cable. To get the package up and running, however, you have to download the software (for free) from X10's Web site.

With the software running, the camera captures still images at a user-programmed interval of from every 10 seconds to every 2 minutes. You can even set it to e-mail you—every minute to every 3 hours—the most recently captured image. Alternatively, you can dial into your PC remotely and view all the images stored in the XRay Vision database. Note that unless you're Internet-savvy, you may have some trouble figuring out how to get all of this to work.

The XRay Vision also comes with software for doing straight video captures, but no videoconferencing app is included. Image quality was acceptable, but not as good as that of the other two cameras.

—Bill O'Brien

< PRODUCT SUMMARY >

RATED 1 TO 5 STARS	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★
PRODUCT	IBM/Xirlink PC Camera Pro Max	Intel PC Camera Pro Pack	X10 XRay Vision
COMPANY	IBM/Xirlink San Jose, CA 800-928-8008 www.xirlink.com/ibmpccamera	Intel Corp. Santa Clara, CA 800-538-3373 www.shop-intel.com	X10 Wireless Technology Seattle, WA 800-675-3044 www.x10.com
DIRECT PRICE	\$129 (mfr. est.)	\$129 (before \$30 rebate, valid until Sept. 30)	\$129.99

2DNet Price It!™

	code
IBM/Xirlink PC Camera Pro Max	33761
Intel PC Camera Pro Pack	33762
X10 XRay Vision	33763

For real-time pricing, go to priceit.zdnet.com and enter number.

HP CD-WRITER PLUS 9310I

HARDWARE

A Fast-Burning CD Writer

AS WAS THE CASE WITH CD-ROM DRIVES, CD-Rewritable drive speeds continue to get faster while their prices get lower. Hewlett-Packard Co.'s latest CD-RW drive, the CD-Writer Plus 9310i, illustrates this trend. The drive is rated at 10x/4x/32x and sells for an estimated price of \$299.

The 9310i's driver CD includes a program that polls your computer's hardware and provides instructions specific to your system. A video on the CD also walks you through the installation process with step-by-step instructions.

The drive comes with Adaptec's Easy CD Creator 3.5. The program starts by asking you whether you want to make a music or data CD, copy an existing CD, or write to a CD as if it were a hard drive. Once you've made your selection, the software recommends which type of media (CD-R or CD-RW) to use, and

an easy-to-follow wizard guides you through the process. The software will not let you make music CDs from MP3 files, however.

Also included are Simple Backup, a file-backup and disaster-recovery program, and Fast Format, a utility that lets you write to a CD-RW disc as it's being formatted. Users with a creative bent will also appreciate Sonic Foundry's Acid Music, which allows you to create music tracks and record them to CD. HP even throws in a CD-label applicator, labels, and label software.

The drive took only 7 minutes and 50 seconds to copy a full CD to a CD-R, 10 minutes and 50 seconds to copy 300MB of data from

the hard drive to a CD-RW disc, and about 15 minutes to back up 600MB to a CD-RW. Although these write times are excellent, the drive's score of 649 on the CD WinMark 99 benchmark test is on the low side for a 32x drive.

The HP CD-Writer Plus 9310i isn't the least expensive CD-RW drive available, but its swift write speeds and laudable ease of use make it a solid choice.

—Sheldon Leemon



★ ★ ★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Fast write speeds; easy to set up and use

Slow CD read speed; bundled software can't create audio CDs from MP3 files

PRODUCT:
HP CD-Writer Plus 9310i

COMPANY:
Hewlett-Packard Co.
Palo Alto, CA
800-826-4111, 970-635-8000
www.hp.cdwriter.com

MFR. EST. PRICE: \$299

PriceIt!
3 3 7 9

For real-time pricing, go to priceit.zdnet.com and enter number.

IBM DESKSTAR 75GXP DTLA-307075

Gigs Served on a Plate of Glass

ROUGHLY 20,000 CD-QUALITY MP3 AUDIO FILES or approximately two days' worth of MPEG-2 video—no matter how you slice it, that's an awful lot of data, and IBM's new Deskstar 75GXP hard drive can pack it all in. With 76,846,399,488 bytes of storage (or about 71.5GB, depending on how you calculate it), this \$615-estimated IDE drive has an astounding capacity.

The 75GXP uses platters made from glass, rather than aluminum alloy. The smoother surface of the glass medium allows for lower flight by the heads, which translates into higher potential data densities. The 75GXP crams five platters and 10 heads inside a standard 3.5-inch package that measures 1 inch high. The drive is also among the first to include the new ATA/100 interface, but as we went to press, we were still waiting on the availability of ATA/100 chip sets

and controller cards that take advantage of this faster interface.

While the 75GXP uses these technologies, it doesn't fully exploit them. The drive's 11-gigabit-per-square-inch data density is actually less than the 14-gigabit-per-square-inch density of the 75GXP's sister 5,400-rpm Deskstar drives. And we saw hardly any performance boost when switching the drive from a 33MHz to a 66MHz bus. Nevertheless, the 75GXP managed to beat out all the other drives we've tested on the High-End Disk WinMark 99 test—even at 33MHz.

As with all drives exceeding an 8GB capacity, the 75GXP might not work properly with older PCs.

IBM provides a software utility to help the drive work with these older systems, but it reported confusing partition listings, as did Windows' FDISK, which reported 7.7GB rather than 71.5GB. We ignored the erroneous displays, and the drive formatted correctly with its full capacity available, even in a test system using a 2-year-old BIOS.

At \$615, the 75GXP is not cheap. (In fact, a pair of 40GB drives will probably cost you less.) But for a single-drive solution that offers unprecedented capacity and speed, the 75GXP is unsurpassed.

—Winn L. Rosch



★ ★ ★ ★ ★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

High capacity; fast performance

Expensive; installation with bundled software or FDISK can be confusing

PRODUCT: IBM Deskstar 75GXP DTLA-307075

COMPANY: IBM Storage Systems Division
San Jose, CA; 800-426-4968
www.storage.ibm.com/deskstar

MFR. EST. PRICE: \$615

PriceIt!
3 3 7 8

For real-time pricing, go to priceit.zdnet.com and enter number.

ELSA GLADIAC

HARDWARE

A New Force in Graphics Speed



FOR SERIOUS GAMERS, THE SEARCH FOR FASTER graphics acceleration is a never-ending quest. But most will find a comfortable stopover with Elsa's new Gladiac graphics accelerator card.

The \$329-estimated Gladiac is designed with top-shelf gaming performance in mind. Like its predecessor, the Erazor X², the Gladiac uses an nVidia Corp. GeForce-class chip set. This time around, however, it's the next-generation GeForce2 GTS, which, according to nVidia, has more advanced transform and lighting capabilities than the original GeForce, as well as an improved shading rasterizer engine that is said to produce better pixel-shading effects. The Gladiac card uses 32MB of DDR SGRAM, and supports both AGP 2x and 4x.

The Gladiac's results on our 3D WinMark 2000 benchmark suite confirm the GeForce2 offers a significant boost in performance compared with its prede-



cessor. Running at 1,024x768, the Gladiac blazed through the tests, garnering a score of 136 at 16-bit color, and 93 at 32-bit. That represents respective increases of 48 percent and 38 percent over what we saw with the Erazor X². (See "Graphics at Warp Speed" in the June issue, p. 168.) We also fired up Quake III, using nVidia's special Arena Level (downloaded from www.nvidia.com), which is specifically designed to take advantage of the GeForce2 chip. Reflections on objects were amazingly sharp, and highly textured surfaces didn't slow down the frame rate in the least.

The Gladiac does not include an S-Video input or output, but an optional video module that provides these connections is available from Elsa for \$35. The Gladiac doesn't come with any bundled games; however, you can buy up to three full games through Elsa's Web site at discounted prices. Among your choices are Interplay's *Evolva* and Shiny Entertainment's *Messiah*—both of which showcase the GeForce2 to its full potential.

It may be notably more expensive than the competition (including older cards based on the GeForce 256), but the Gladiac's astounding level of performance is bound to make most gamers happy. —Brian Bennett

★★★★

RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Unsurpassed performance

Expensive; no S-Video ports; no bundled games

PRODUCT: Elsa Gladiac
 COMPANY: Elsa
 San Jose, CA
 800-272-3572, 408-961-4600
www.elsa.com

MFR. EST. PRICE: \$329

3D Net Price It!
 3 3 7 8 4

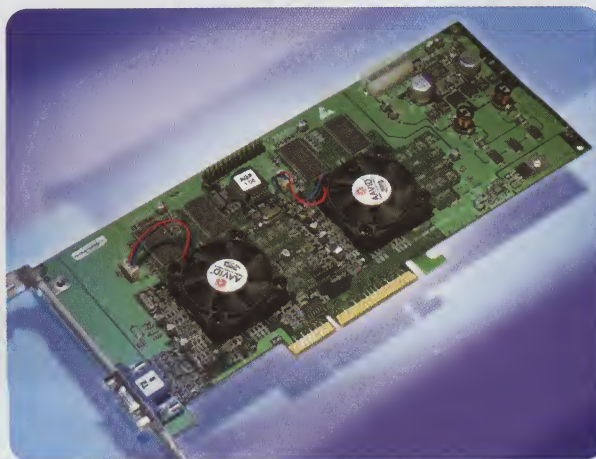
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3DFX Voodoo5 5500 AGP

Voodoo's Spell Is Cast Again

THE FORMER HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION OF 3D graphics, 3dfx Interactive, has taken a pounding of late from nVidia Corp. But the company hopes to make a comeback with its new \$299.95-estimated Voodoo5 5500 AGP graphics card, which comes with a pair of 3dfx's 166MHz VSA-100 graphics accelerators and 64MB of DDR SDRAM. Each of the VSA-100 chips draws half of a 3D frame simultaneously, using 3dfx's proprietary Scan-Line Interleave (SLI) technology, which (at least in theory) renders a whole frame in half the time it takes the competition.

Though it doesn't pack as powerful a punch as the new GeForce2 GTS-based graphics cards, the Voodoo5 does have the slightly older GeForce 256 cards against the ropes. The Voodoo5's 92.8 score on 3D WinMark 2000 at 1,024x768 with 16-bit color, and 69.3 result with 32-bit color, are directly in line with what we've seen with GeForce 256 cards. So why buy a



3D graphics card that works like last week's technology? Because of the Voodoo5's hardware-based, real-time full-scene anti-aliasing (FSAA). Then again, maybe not.

FSAA smoothes unsightly jagged diagonal lines and works with old and new games alike. FSAA can also be a handicap, however: It causes a major decrease in frame rate. When we turned on FSAA, *Descent III* took on an almost anime-like quality, but the frame rate dropped from 48 fps to 29 fps. *Quake II*, meanwhile, plummeted from 68 fps to 24 fps. Using the technology also caused the Voodoo5's 3D WinMark 2000 scores to fall

roughly 70 percent. The Voodoo5 has two FSAA modes, 2x and 4x. Our tests were done at the maximum level. Although the 2x mode carries a negligible hit in performance, its anti-aliasing benefits are also minimal.

The Voodoo5 is also rather power-hungry; it draws 30 watts and requires an internal power connector. Ultimately, the Voodoo5 begs the question of whether you want better-looking or faster 3D graphics. The smoother appearance offers a definite aesthetic appeal, but the slower frame rates won't sit well with the card's target audience of serious gamers. —Bill O'Brien

★★★★

RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Very effective anti-aliasing for anime-like graphics quality

Anti-aliasing causes a significant drop in frame rate; requires internal power connector

PRODUCT: 3dfx Voodoo5 5500 AGP
 COMPANY: 3dfx Interactive
 San Jose, CA
 800-234-8750, 972-234-8750
www.3dfx.com

MFR. EST. PRICE: \$299.95

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AWARDS*

NeoServer 150 — WinList
WinMag.com, April 2000

Armada E500 — WinList
WinMag.com, March 2000

Deskpro EP — Best of the Best
WinMag.com, September 1999

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**NETMACHINES REDRAK
LINUX PRO 128 PLUS****NETWORKS** 

A Web Server That Won't Put You in the Red

THESE DAYS IT SEEMS EVERY OTHER COMPANY IS ADDING "DOT COM" to the end of its name. And it's no wonder: Having a strong Internet presence and participating in e-commerce are quickly taking hold as the way to do business in the 21st century. Many small businesses looking to jump on the electronic bandwagon are choosing to operate the equipment they'll need and support the infrastructure themselves. Such businesses need a Web server, and there's no shortage of vendors willing to provide the equipment, albeit usually for a hefty sum.

Netmachines' RedRak line of Internet Web servers offers the full level of Web,



e-mail, and FTP functionality small businesses need, but at an affordable price. In fact, prices for RedRak servers start at a budget-pleasing \$999.95 direct. We looked at the \$1,799 RedRak Linux Pro 128 Plus, which is equipped with a 500MHz Intel Celeron processor, 128MB of RAM, and a 20GB hard drive. It also includes a 10/100Mbps Ethernet connection, serial and parallel ports, two USB ports, two PS/2 connectors, and a VGA connector for using an external display. The system comes with the RedRak Linux operating system (based on Red Hat Linux) and the KDE graphical environment.

The RedRak is designed as a rack-mountable server, but because it has a full complement of PC ports, it can also be used as a stand-alone server or as an

inexpensive Linux workstation. Configuring the unit as a rack-mounted server is fairly straightforward. You first need to physically hook up the RedRak to a hub or switch attached to your network. Then, from a workstation on the network, launch a Web browser and direct it to the preconfigured IP address of the RedRak server. (You can always change the IP address of the RedRak later on.) The RedRak's browser-based configuration screen then comes up.

All of the RedRak's configuration settings are handled through the browser-based interface, which lets you set up a full range of services. The RedRak can act as a Web, FTP, mail (including IMAP, POP3, and SMTP), news, LDAP, Telnet, print, and file server. The unit supports Network Address

Translation (NAT) and FrontPage extensions (on the built-in Apache Web-server software), and it includes a highly configurable, built-in firewall. In addition, by using the RedRak's SNAP-OS removable hard drive feature, you can quickly switch the system over to run FreeBSD, NetWare, or Windows 98, 2000, or NT.

If you plan on configuring the system as a stand-alone server, you'll have to supply your own mouse, keyboard, and monitor. Also keep in mind that the unit does not include a CD-ROM drive. (The RedRak includes an empty 5.25-inch drive bay, which you could populate with a CD-ROM or second hard drive.) We noticed that the mouse and keyboard ports were located too far back inside the chassis, and as a result neither the mouse nor keyboard plugs could reach far enough to make a workable connection. We had to cut away a quarter inch of the protective plastic of the connectors on the ends of the cables to resolve this problem.



After booting up the system, you'll be greeted by a command-line interface with a text-based menu. One of the options is to launch the X Window graphical interface. Once X starts, Netscape automatically launches, and the RedRak's browser-based configuration interface opens. The browser-based interface is all you need to configure the unit, but Linux veterans can also use the command-line interface.

The RedRak performed well in informal testing. It handled multiple simultaneous accesses without a hitch, and setting up multiple users and drive sharing was also problem-free. For the most part, the RedRak made administration relatively painless. Our only complaint worth noting is that the documentation is not detailed enough. Although someone well-versed in Linux and network configuration should have no problems, a less knowledgeable user might be stymied. However, Netmachines does offer 24-hour telephone support.

A small business looking for an inexpensive Web-server solution would be wise to consider a Netmachines RedRak server. But if you do, make sure you have the Linux and networking expertise to use it.

—Neil Randall

★★★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

 Affordable all-in-one Internet Web server solution; full set of PC ports; removable hard drive
 Documentation lacks detail; loud cooling fan

PRODUCT: Netmachines RedRak Linux Pro 128 Plus
COMPANY: Netmachines Palo Alto, CA; 925-737-1600
www.netmachines.net
AS REVIEWED: 500MHz Celeron; 128MB SDRAM; 20GB hard drive; 10/100Mbps Ethernet interface; RedRak Linux
DIRECT PRICE: \$1,799

Net Price It!
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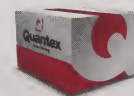
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MOBILE**COMPAQ NOTEBOOK 100**

A Basic Notebook at a Breakthrough Price



AFTER YEARS OF SPEEDING UP, SLIMMING DOWN, AND DECKING out notebooks with the latest options and features, manufacturers are finally moving on to the real bottom line: price.

For most mainstream notebooks, the magic number to beat has always been \$1,500. Component costs have always made this a difficult goal to attain—until now. Enter Compaq's \$1,299 Notebook 100, which proves that the time is finally right for true budget notebooks. This basic model doesn't deliver blistering speed or long battery life, but it should do the job for budget-conscious users.

The Notebook 100 skimps where it can, but doesn't cut too many corners in its pursuit of a low price. The biggest compromises are CPU power and screen size.

Instead of a high-end Mobile Pentium III, the unit employs a value-minded 475MHz AMD K6-2 processor. The SVGA screen measures only 12.1 inches, but it's a bright active-matrix LCD, unlike other bargain-bin specials that use dual-scan screens. The Notebook 100 also is thin on software, with Microsoft Word its only productivity app. (The full Office 2000 suite will cost you an additional \$100.) Compaq does throw in Carbon Copy, a software package for remotely accessing and managing PCs, which may be useful to growing small businesses.

While these specs fall short of today's high-end notebooks, the unit packs adequate memory and storage for typical users, with 64MB of RAM and a 5GB hard drive. A floppy drive and a 24x CD-ROM drive are both built in. Even though the drives can't be removed or swapped, the Notebook 100 is still fairly portable, measuring 1.6x11.7x9.4 inches (HWD) and weighing 6.7 pounds. And when it comes to expansion options, the unit has all the basics: two Type II PC Card slots, plus parallel, serial, VGA, and USB ports. Microphone and headphone jacks are also included, albeit located inconveniently on the back of the unit.

The case is well-built and feels relatively sturdy, with a comfortable full-size keyboard and a responsive touch pad. The screen is bright and crisp, but don't expect to blast through any fast-twitch 3D games—the unit's Trident graphics chip, with 4MB of memory, won't be able to handle them.

The components add up to a capable, if not speedy, portable. The Notebook 100 eked out a comparatively low performance score of 11.4 on our Business Winstone 99 test. That's enough power for basic productivity applications, but it's far less than that of average systems today.

At 2 hours and 43 minutes, the unit's

BatteryMark 3.0 results were somewhat better, just under the 3-hour result we've been seeing on most portables. The notebook comes with a nickel metal-hydrate battery; you could up the battery life by springing for the \$129 lithium-ion battery option.

Even with this relatively anemic performance, the Notebook 100 should suffice for

basic applications like word processing and Internet access. The integrated 56Kbps modem works well, and the unit includes Compaq Online Services, a useful set of business-related links for online training, creating your own e-commerce site, and managing an office.

Our biggest concerns include an unusually loud humming noise that the notebook generates. An overworked fan is partly the problem: It's placed on the bottom of the unit, which doesn't seem optimal for cooling purposes. Also, the speakers are tinny-sounding, although that's the norm with most notebooks. Audio tends to break up when cranked up to the highest volume setting, although the speakers are loud enough for small

group presentations.

The one-year parts-and-labor warranty also seems too short, especially because the unit is aimed at small businesses, which typically don't have IT departments to back them up. You can boost the coverage to three years for \$99.

Nonetheless, the Notebook 100 is a compelling unit for basic applications. And with the copycat tendencies of the PC industry, it's sure to be the first in a long line of bargain-priced units from a host of manufacturers. That's good news for value-seeking buyers, who now finally may be able to do some real comparison-shopping.

—Richard S. Shim



RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

- Affordable; solid case design
- Weak performance; one-year warranty

SYSTEM:

Compaq Notebook 100

COMPANY:

Compaq Computer Corp.
Houston, TX; 800-345-1518

www.compaq.com

AS TESTED: 475MHz AMD K6-2; 64MB SDRAM; 5GB hard drive; 24x CD-ROM drive; Trident CyberBlade i7 AGP graphics chip with 4MB of memory; 12.1-inch SVGA active-matrix display; Via Wave audio chip; 56Kbps integrated modem; touch pad; Microsoft Word

DIRECT PRICE: \$1,299

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www.zdnet.com

MOBILE**WINBOOK SI**

Walking the Tightrope of Value and Performance

JUST ABOUT EVERY NEW NOTEBOOK DESIGN IS THE RESULT OF COMPROMISES, with vendors trying all sorts of combinations to determine which balance of features and affordability will yield the best machine. Combining high performance and a sub-\$2,000 price is a particularly difficult balancing act, one that the WinBook Si would seem to have mastered with its speedy 600MHz Pentium III processor and bargain \$1,937 price. Understandably, WinBook had to cut some corners to meet this ceiling; the result is a rather odd fusion of high- and low-end features.

At first glance, the Si doesn't seem like a budget notebook at all. Our 6.9-pound evaluation model shipped with 96MB of SDRAM, a 6GB hard drive, a fixed 24x CD-ROM drive, and an internal 56Kbps modem. Its Rage Mobility M display adapter and ESS Solo-1 sound subsystem were up to most multimedia tasks. And the notebook's nondescript matte-black case was outfitted with all the standard ports, including dual USB connectors, two stacked Type II PC Card slots, and an S-Video port.

But then we started to notice the compromises. We were surprised to find that our 600MHz Pentium III unit didn't include Intel Corp.'s SpeedStep power-saving technology, which allows the user to deploy a power-optimized mode when running on battery power. Instead, WinBook has shoehorned a desktop version of the 600MHz Pentium III into the Si series. The company did this as a price-cutting tactic, because mobile processors cost more than their desktop counterparts.

The Si is only available with a 12.1-inch screen supporting a maximum SVGA (800x600) resolution. While picture quality was excellent, clearly plenty of room remained in the bezel for a more spacious display. Also, the unit lacks preloaded software and is backed by only a one-year warranty.

Performance was fairly strong, however, with Winstone and Business Graphics WinMark scores of 24.4 and 173, respectively. These showings are roughly the same as those of the average 650MHz system in our most recent notebook roundup. (See the



July feature "Supercharged Notebooks," p. 154.) Processing speed notwithstanding, the fact that the Si features a desktop version of the Pentium III affects other aspects of its overall performance.

Its battery life takes the greatest hit. Not only does the lack of a power-saving mode mean the processor is always running full-bore, but desktop versions inevitably burn more volts than comparable mobile CPUs. Moreover, the desktop Pentium III generates much more heat, thereby requiring a cooling fan. And that consumes battery juice even quicker.

So we weren't surprised to find that on our BatteryMark 3.0 test, the Si averaged a brief 2 hours and 29 minutes on a single charge of its lithium-ion battery. In compari-

son, the six systems in our July roundup, all powered by 650MHz Mobile Pentium III CPUs, averaged 3 hours and 29 minutes in full-power mode and an impressive 3 hours and 47 minutes in battery-optimized mode. Granted, those systems all cost between \$2,600 and \$3,800, but they also were outfitted with large, power-hungry screens.

Many users, however, will gladly accept these shortcomings in

exchange for a bargain price, especially if they're rarely disconnected from the AC power grid. The unit was certainly comfortable enough to use. We liked the substantial travel and firm click of the keyboard and appreciated its dual hotkeys for launching our e-mail program and Web browser. The Si's fully programmable Alps touch pad was also a welcome feature, although the dual actuation buttons could have been larger and a little easier to press. The unit also lacked any productivity apps—which could be a concern for a first-time buyer.

At press time, we learned that WinBook plans to substitute the desktop Pentium III processor for a 650MHz Mobile Pentium III for the same price. This version of the Si is certain to deliver longer battery life, thanks to the new processor's SpeedStep capabilities, and is therefore likely to be a much better buy. The configuration we reviewed here will remain available through retail stores, presumably at a lower cost. WinBook also says refurbished models can be purchased on its Web site.

Given its shortcomings, the Si we reviewed seems a bit penny-wise and pound-foolish. In the end, the WinBook Si will best meet your needs if you have a firm \$2,000 budget ceiling and aren't concerned with battery life or screen size. Our advice? Spend a little more, and you'll get a bigger bargain.

—Asa Somers

★ ★ ★

RATED 1 TO 5 STARS



Low price; strong

performance



Poor battery life; small

screen; no productivity apps

SYSTEM: WinBook Si

COMPANY:

WinBook Computer Corp.
Hilliard, OH; 800-651-4519

www.winbook.com

AS TESTED: 600MHz Intel Pentium III (desktop version); 96MB SDRAM; 6GB hard drive; 12.1-inch SVGA active-matrix LCD; 24x CD-ROM drive; Rage Mobility M graphics controller with 4MB video memory; ESS Solo-1 PCI AudioDrive sound system; dual front-firing stereo speakers; 56Kbps LT WinModem; touch pad; Windows 98

MFR. EST. PRICE: \$1,937

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MOBILE

MOTOROLA i1000PLUS

Countless Ways To Communicate

MOTOROLA HAS UPDATED ITS GROUNDBREAKING i1000 CELLULAR phone/pager/two-way radio by adding wireless data capabilities, yielding a great all-in-one communicator for business users on the go. Although a small screen and complicated pricing plans make the new i1000plus challenging to use, once you've mastered the interface you'll find it's a comprehensive solution for calls and data.

Motorola, with Nextel, launched the original i1000 two years ago. In addition to cool capabilities such as speakerphone, the i1000 combined paging and two-way radio with cellular calling. A fancy form of walkie-talkie, the Direct Connect two-way radio lets you connect with registered users in the urban area by simply hitting a button. Now the two companies have included wireless Web access in what is essentially the same svelte handset. Though the i1000plus is also available from other providers, Nextel is the only company that offers nationwide roaming with the device.

The \$199 clamshell-style phone is fairly compact and petite, weighing 6 ounces and measuring 1.2x2.2x4.5 inches (HWD). Its interface is fairly intuitive but, like most phones today, requires a lot of scrolling and button-pushing for navigation and reading of information. The unit charged in about 2 hours and lasted for roughly 24 hours of frequent use.

Nextel emphasizes business-to-business communications with its Web services by permitting customers to create their own Web portals at myNextel (*mobile.mynextel.com*), which is powered by MSN Mobile. Through myNextel, you can access and manage e-mail, contacts, and customizable information, which can be viewed via the microbrowser or sent to the phone as a message using the MSN Mobile service. The wireless Internet access allows users to look up the weather, stock quotes, sports scores, and news headlines, as well as shop. The news content is abridged so that you won't spend all your time scrolling down the five-line display and go blind from reading the small text.



Setup was simple: We entered preferences such as stocks and sports teams to follow, and the information appeared on the site and on the phone. You can even have the pager alert you when news is updated.

The i1000plus also can be used as a wireless modem, although we were unable to test this feature. Regular use is sure to be costly, since you must buy an additional connection kit that is priced at approximately \$99. Usage minutes are billed like a voice call, and because the maximum access plan is limited to 19.2Kbps, the tally will add up quickly.

The sleek clamshell phone delivered loud, clear transmission, and the rare speakerphone option makes it easy for co-

workers to collaborate on calls. It also means that you don't have to hold the phone to your ear when you need both hands free.

Direct Connect also was easy and effective to use. We found the connection to be clear and instantaneous; we simply pressed a button on the side of the phone to talk and released it to hear the other person, much like a walkie-talkie. It's also much more

affordable than making standard cellular calls. Calling one person is free, while group calls to up to 100 people cost 15 cents per minute per person.

With so many different optional services, figuring out pricing can be somewhat difficult. Nextel sells the phone itself for \$199, a fair value given its abundant features. You can choose among several different choices for voice calling and two nationwide plans for wireless Internet access. The \$14.95 basic plan includes paging capabilities and access to mobile-enabled Web sites with which Nextel has partnered. The \$19.95 plan gives you all the capabilities

of the basic plan as well as unlimited Web access. Until phones can view more sites, the extra \$5 for the unlimited Web access may be a waste of money. These fees are in addition to your voice-plan payments.

The Nextel service has coverage in 96 of the nation's 100 largest markets, and its wireless Internet access is scheduled to be available in all Nextel markets by midyear, according to the company. For coverage updates, check the Nextel site at www.nextel.com/coverage.

Learning to use the Motorola i1000plus takes some time, but it's one of the most comprehensive, versatile communications solutions on the market.

—Richard S. Shim

★ ★ ★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Abundant features; clear sound; flexible
Small screen; complex pricing plans; steep learning curve

PRODUCT:
Motorola i1000plus
COMPANY: Motorola
Schaumburg, IL;
800-453-0920, 847-576-5000
www.motorola.com
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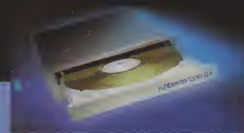
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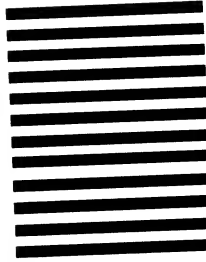


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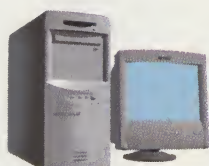
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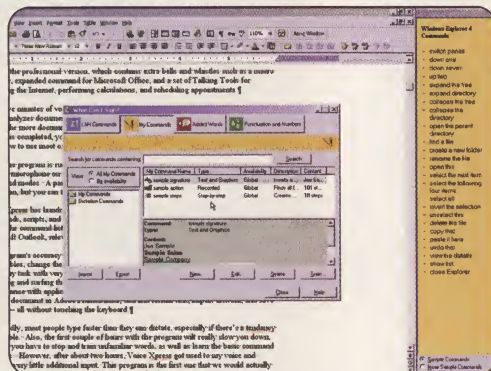
**L&H VOICE XPRESS
PROFESSIONAL 5.0****SOFTWARE**

Harness the Power Of the Human Voice



ALTHOUGH VOICE-RECOGNITION SOFTWARE has long held the potential of replacing the keyboard and mouse, its adoption has been hampered by its clunky performance. Lernout & Hauspie's Voice Xpress Professional 5.0 finally makes good on that promise. With its much easier setup and improved accuracy—as well as various tools for searching the Internet, performing calculations, and scheduling appointments—Voice Xpress should make keyboards everywhere tremble with fear.

After you administer 5 minutes of voice training, Voice Xpress initiates an accuracy builder, which analyzes your documents and e-mail to help it better understand the way you write. The more documents the program analyzes, the more accurate your profile. Once the training process is complete, you can browse the L&H Café—an animated interactive tutorial—to learn how to use most of the



program's features.

While Voice Xpress is running, a toolbar at the top of the display lets you turn the microphone on and off, get help, train words, and switch between dictation and command modes. The program uses hundreds of commands, which are organized into context-sensitive command lists. Thus, if you're running Microsoft Outlook, for example, the relevant commands appear in the command panel. You can also create your own commands, scripts, and dictation shortcuts to insert frequently used text with a single word.

Microsoft Office users will also appreciate the software's several expanded commands that let you insert tables, change the number of columns, add headers and footers, and perform just about any other task you want with very little training. The software works well with other applications, too. For example, we were able to create a document in Adobe FrameMaker, add and format text, import artwork, and save the file—all without touching the keyboard.

Admittedly, your first few hours with the program will be slow going while you learn the basic commands and train the software. But once the training period is over, Voice Xpress does a great job of giving you hands-free PC operation.

—Susan Glinert

★★★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

- Accurate voice input; unobtrusive and intuitive interface
- Can't run on many legacy systems

PRODUCT: L&H Voice Xpress Professional 5.0

COMPANY: Lernout & Hauspie
Burlington, MA
888-537-6688, 781-203-5000
www.lhs.com

REQUIRES: 266MHz Pentium II-class processor; 96MB RAM recommended (128MB RAM recommended for Windows NT 4.0 and 2000); 250MB hard drive space (plus 50MB for each user profile); USB microphone headset or Sound Blaster 16-compatible sound card supporting 16-bit 22KHz recording; Windows 95, 98, or 2000, or NT 4.0 (with Service Pack 4 or later)

MFR. EST. PRICE: \$149.99

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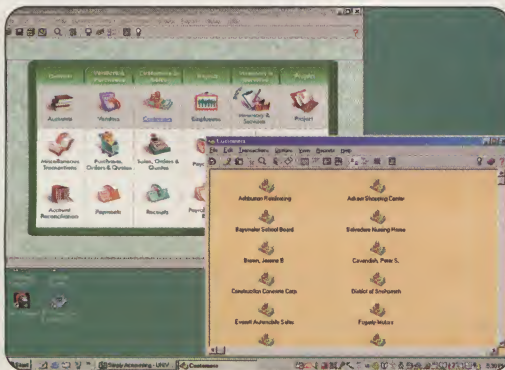
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SIMPLY ACCOUNTING 8.0

Accounting for Everything

IF YOU'RE A SMALL-BUSINESS OWNER, THEN YOU probably know more about your business than you do about accounting. If so, then Accpac International's Simply Accounting 8.0 may be right for you. With improvements over its previous versions, Simply Accounting is an adequate package that lets you easily manage your debits and credits, and gives you a quick fix on your bottom line.

Setting up Simply Accounting is easy. After installation, the program gets you started with a generous set of account charts, and the software's wizard does a thorough job of walking you through setting up your books. The graphically rich main menu lets you quickly access the program's general ledger, accounts receivable and payable, payroll, inventory, and project (costing) modules. Just



click on a module's icon, and you're ready to work with the appropriate forms in that area. In addition, Simply Accounting creates a solid audit trail that calls for formal reverse entries and keeps a record of all changes made to your files—features that will appeal to your accountant's heart.

This latest version offers interface improvements that make it simpler to learn and use. In particular, it's easier to see and visually sort chart types, and to change and save records. You can now work with foreign currencies, and send e-mail invoices and other notices to customers and suppliers. The program also supports Open Financial Exchange (OFX), which enables you to import statements from financial institutions and speed up account reconciliation.

On the downside, Simply Accounting lacks strong multiuser features. Data files can be opened across networks, but you can't configure users so they work only with the modules they need. And the program is still not as easy to use as Intuit's QuickBooks, nor does it excel at relating business processes to accounting.

Limitations aside, Simply Accounting is fine for small service and reselling businesses, and its low price of \$129 is appealing.

—Wayne Kawamoto

★★★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

- Good Microsoft Office integration; tight audit trail
- Weak multiuser features

PRODUCT: Simply Accounting 8.0

COMPANY: Accpac International
Pleasanton, CA
800-808-7000, 925-461-2625
www.accpac.com

REQUIRES: Pentium or faster; 32MB RAM; 60MB hard drive space (100MB recommended); Windows 95, 98, or NT 4.0

LIST PRICE: \$129

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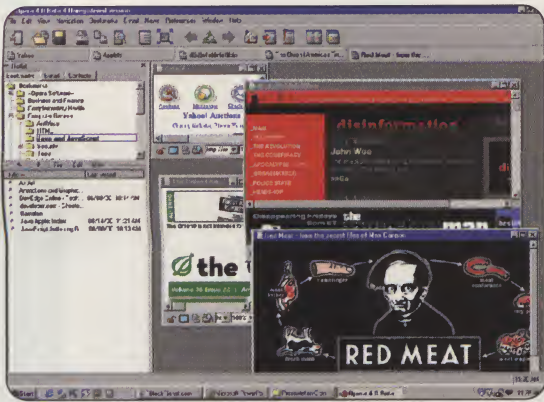
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OPERA 4.0

A Night at The Browser

★★★★ (RATED 1 TO 5 STARS)

For a change of pace when browsing the Internet, check out Opera Software's Opera 4.0, a viable



Windows-compatible alternative to Microsoft Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator. In this version, Opera addresses many of the issues users raised with earlier releases. Improvements include a fully functional e-mail client and 128-bit SSL encryption, as well as the ability to view multiple documents within a single window and open multiple URLs at the same time.

Opera follows the standard browser layout. Navigation buttons are located at the top of the window, with big,

SOFTWARE

recognizable icons. The Hotlist panel, an easy way to access your bookmarks, appears on the left side of the screen. The e-mail client, located next to the Hotlist, lets you easily send and receive e-mail, as well as filter incoming messages into different folders. Opera lets you customize the layout and even allows you to import new image sets to use for buttons.

Moreover, the program gives you flexible control over cookies.

You can manage these data files on a site-by-site or global basis. Each time a Web site attempts to place a cookie on your PC, a pop-up window lets you choose whether to accept it, block it, or disable all cookies from that particular site. If you choose to accept the file, the cookie is then stored in a DAT file that you can erase whenever you want.

Opera has been optimized to make maximum use of your available bandwidth, enabling Web pages to load faster than either Internet Explorer or Navigator. And Opera's memory man-

ENFISH ONESPACE

Becoming One With the Web

★★★★ (RATED 1 TO 5 STARS)

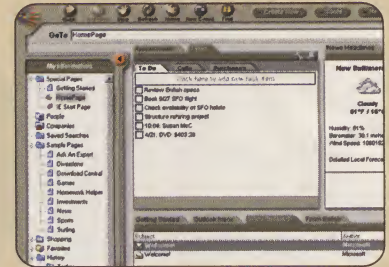
Enfish Technology calls Onespace a "personal desktop portal," and we'd be hard-pressed to come up with a better one-line description. Like a conventional Web portal, it displays an array of searchable data on your screen, lets you browse other Web pages by typing in their addresses, and provides links that let you use each piece of information as a launchpad for further exploration.

Unlike a Web portal, however, Onespace pulls much of this data directly from your hard drive. On installation, the program automatically begins cataloging e-mail messages, Microsoft Office documents, browser Favorites, and other information stored on your PC. Onespace then organizes these items into user-defined panes that you can access by clicking on a Panes tab or by navigating a Windows Explorer-style directory tree. Other panes display online items such as weather reports, search engines, stock quotes, shopping pages, or online games. You can even create specialized panes to store personal information, including to-do lists and calendars.

Onespace seamlessly merges all these items into a single, customizable Web page that lets you browse the Internet or run local applications with a few clicks. The program's outstanding search capabilities, based on Intel Corp.'s Automatic Organizer engine, use statistical analysis and pattern-matching techniques to categorize the contents of your documents, and enable intelligent searches and automatic links that span both your hard drive and the Internet.

On the downside, Onespace isn't compatible with some of the most popular e-mail systems—in particular, AOL and Eudora—and its initial cataloging procedure is time-consuming, easily taking several hours on some systems. But these are minor complaints compared to its other strengths. With a bit of experimentation, Onespace can revolutionize the way you organize and use the data you access every day (Enfish Technology; free; www.enfish.com)

—Don Labriola



SNIPPETS 2.0

Snippet, Snippet Good

★★★★ (RATED 1 TO 5 STARS)

Does your browser need a boost? Snippets 2.0, a customizable icon-based link bar that neatly monitors, updates, and keeps you abreast of the latest news, can help. Displaying local weather broadcasts, sports scores, stock quotes, and even the daily funnies, Snippets makes standard link bars seem mundane.

Download the free plug-in from the company's Web site, and Snippets presents you with a diverse list of 100-plus partner Web sites, including CNN.com, Yahoo, and ZDNet (the parent company of Computer Shopper). You can select which items to display on your Snippets bar, as well as how often each available Snippet icon should notify you of a change in con-

tent. You can even customize the alert feature, so that when content is updated, the appropriate icon will either shift to a gray tone or display a small green circle in its upper left corner.

Pointing the cursor at an icon will display the time it was last updated. To preview an icon's content, click once; double-clicking will launch the source's Web site in full-browser size. Snippets even provides a password-protection feature to secure sensitive snippets, such as the latest bids to your eBay account, against prying eyes.

Unfortunately, this ambitious tool has a few minor problems. The software requires Internet Explorer and will not work with any version of Netscape. In addition, if you use a modem, you might experience some difficulties exiting the software while offline. Still, with useful features such as the ability to clone active Snippets and alter their individual parameters—allowing you to monitor the weather in several different regions, for example—most users are likely to consider Snippets a worthwhile enhancement.

—Avital Fryman
(Snippets.com; free; www.snippets.com)



agement is so effective that you can open numerous URLs simultaneously

without slowing down your system's performance. Opera doesn't include native support for plug-ins, however. If you want to view a site that requires Java or Shockwave, for example, you'll need to manually add the specific files to Opera's plug-in folder. Also, unlike Microsoft or Netscape, Opera charges you \$39 for the shareware (although you will receive a 30-day evaluation period before you have to pay).

With its small size (the download is just over 2MB) and wide OS support (versions are available for Windows 3.x, 95, 98, and NT, as well as Linux and BeOS), Opera 4.0 hits a high note in the browser chorus.

—Richard Douek

(Opera Software; \$39;
www.opera.com)

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Opera 4.0	33770
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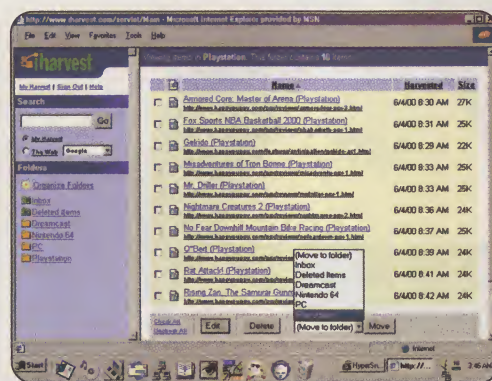
Time to Reap What You Surf

T IRED OF SPENDING HOURS SHOPPING ONLINE only to discover that your best finds have disappeared by the time you're ready to check out? If you use Internet Explorer 5.0 or later, iHarvest can help alleviate your frustration. A free and easy-to-use online application that lets you clip, save, store, highlight, and categorically sort Web content as you browse the Internet, iHarvest provides a quick and powerful solution to the drawbacks of searching a constantly changing environment like the Internet.

Using iHarvest is simple. After installing the free plug-in on your PC, you can set up an iHarvest toolbar in your browser window. Then, just right-click on any selected Web content and choose Harvest It from the pop-up menu. The program will prompt you for a filename, an online destination folder, and whether to store the item as a Web link or as Web content. A Web link is similar to a bookmark, only you'll

have access to it from any Internet-ready PC through your iHarvest account. Choosing Web content, on the other hand, saves a page or clip as is, so that the saved file will not change even after the source site has been modified.

The toolbar provides several other functions. The Highlighter button lets you select and highlight text in any of 20 different colors before harvesting a page. The search bar lets you sort through harvested content using descriptive keywords. If no matches are found, a drop-down menu provides access to several popular search engines, including Google, Lycos, Go, and Yahoo.



Clicking My Harvest will take you to your personal iHarvest Web page. Once there, you can sort through and manage your stored content using the program's simple drop-down menus and ready-to-edit folders. You can sort through harvested files by name, size, date harvested, or file type, or you can add comments to your files for future reference.

Unfortunately, this otherwise user-friendly research tool lacks offline and Netscape capabilities. Still, considering its overall practicality, iHarvest provides a bountiful yield.

—Avital Fryman

★★★★★
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Free; easy to use; excellent for organizing Web research
No Netscape support; information not accessible offline

SERVICE: iHarvest
COMPANY: iHarvest
Redwood Shores, CA
650-622-3000

www.iharvest.com

REQUIRES: Internet Explorer 5.0; Windows 95 or 98

PRICE: Free

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For real-time pricing, go to priceit.zdnet.com and enter number.

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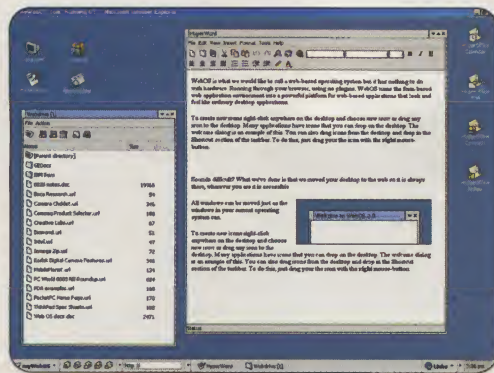
Take Your Office On the Road

beta ONE PROBLEM WE'VE ENCOUNTERED WITH MANY application service providers (ASPs) is the inability to accommodate mobile workers. Services designed for high-speed corporate networks can leave dial-up users out in the cold when they try to perform tasks as simple as editing a spreadsheet or writing a memo. WebOS tackles this problem with HyperOffice, a full-fledged Internet-resident office suite that's fast enough for even a modem connection. Based on the vendor's WebOS operating system, HyperOffice applications can perform sophisticated word processing, spreadsheet, and e-mail operations without constantly loading and displaying new Web pages.

All HyperOffice applications and documents reside on WebOS's Internet servers, which let you access the system with any computer that can run Internet Explorer 5.0. (The company plans to add support for Netscape Navigator 4.0 later this year.) The system's main workspace is a Windows-like desktop, complete

with scalable windows, taskbar, right-click pop-up menus, movable icons, and even a launch button that works like the Windows Start menu. Transferring files between your PC and your Internet-resident HyperOffice virtual disk requires nothing more exotic than familiar Windows Explorer-style procedures.

The beta version offers a good selection of personal-information-management utilities, including a calendar, a contact manager, a to-do list, and e-mail, as well as animated tutorials and basic word processor and spreadsheet applications. Although most of these applications were prerelease versions, they provided stable operation and snappy performance on our 450MHz Pentium II testbed. Unfortunately, HyperOffice's major applications do not save



documents in native Microsoft Office format. They do, however, export HTML code, which provides an intermediate format that can be read by Office 2000.

WebOS expects the final version of HyperOffice, which should be online by the time you read this, to contain more than 50 additional applications, including chat and instant-messaging software, news and stock-quote services, a presentation-graphics package, even wireless e-mail. While many of its features were still in the early stages, we found HyperOffice to be a credible option for anyone who wants to access lightweight productivity applications over the Internet.

—Don Labriola

★★★★★

RATED 1 TO 5 STARS

Free; solid performance
Applications can't save in native Microsoft Office format; some applications not yet available

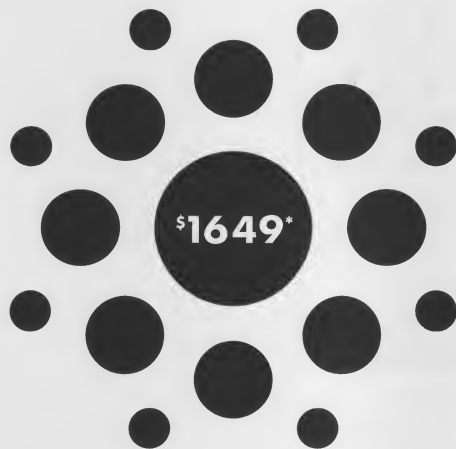
SERVICE: HyperOffice
COMPANY: WebOS
Columbia, MD; 410-730-9518
www.hyperoffice.com

REQUIRES: Internet connection

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GAMES

ROGUE SPEAR:
URBAN OPERATIONSCities in the
Crosshairs

★★★★★ (RATED 1 TO 5 STARS)

Fans of Red Storm Entertainment's first-person tactical game Rogue Spear will want to suit up for more special-ops action with Rogue Spear:



Urban Operations, a superior expansion pack that offers a host of new maps and weapons, plus improved gameplay.

New maps abound, leading off with treks to five cities, such as Hong Kong, London, and Venice. Also included are eight smaller multiplayer maps and five classic locales from the original Rainbow Six (with some noticeable touch-ups). The new maps look great, bringing a heightened sense of excitement to the game by placing terrorists in public places, where they mix in with the general population. Still, the predictability of the game's artificial intelligence and its occasional superhuman abilities detract a bit from the overall suspense in these situations.

Another intriguing addition is a new

cooperative-play game called Defend, in which you have to protect your base from terrorists. The pack's four new weapons, meanwhile, are predominantly lightweight guns, though they deliver some serious firepower. Other highlights include better support for user-designed mods, improved multitask control, and the ability to customize missions.

Overall, this is a solid, feature-filled expansion pack that multiplayer enthusiasts in particular will appreciate. The AI could still use some tweaking, but everything else is right on target.

—Oliver Zeller

(Red Storm Entertainment; \$19.99; www.redstorm.com)

STARLANCER

Cold War in
The Cosmos

★★★★★ (RATED 1 TO 5 STARS)

To fans of space-combat simulations, Chris and Erin Roberts are household names. The latest effort from the brothers responsible for the Wing Commander and Privateer series is StarLancer, an ambitious space epic that seems surprisingly derivative of the Roberts' previous works.

Whereas most space sims pit humans against alien aggressors, StarLancer presents a Cold-War-in-space scenario in which the United States and Great Britain face off against

DAIKATANA

Dying by the Sword

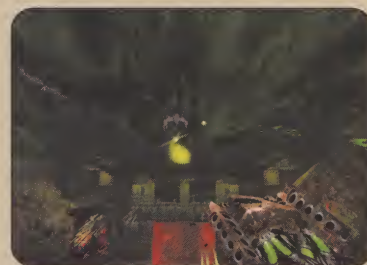
★★★ (RATED 1 TO 5 STARS)

At first, Daikatana seemed destined to be another milestone in the career of legendary game designer John Romero (Wolfenstein 3D, Doom, Quake) and the flagship title for his company, Ion Storm. But after four years—and numerous code revisions, a few staff upheavals, and tons of bad press—Daikatana became a textbook example of game development run amok. Now that the finished product has finally shipped, the big question is: Was it worth the wait?

Sadly, the answer is no. Whether by fate, karma, or just bad judgment, the game appears determined to live up to every negative thing ever uttered against it. From its torturous opening movie, awful voice acting, and stereotyped characters to its flat, murky graphics (which look even more dated than the Quake II engine used to create them), flawed puzzles, and astoundingly stupid AI, this first-person shooter practically self-destructs before your eyes.

The story revolves around a magical, 4,000-year-old sword, the Daikatana, which has fallen into the hands of the evil Kage Mishima. He uses it to alter time in order to gain wealth and power by stealing the cure for a deadly epidemic. It's up to you, Hiro Miyamoto (a descendant of the sword's creator), to reclaim the Daikatana and restore time to its proper course. Good luck.

Even the game's most highly touted feature—the two virtual sidekicks who aid you on your quest—comes off as a cruel joke. (Indeed, coping with these characters is one of Daikatana's more challenging aspects.) Suffice it to say, you'll be ready to throw yourself on that sword well before Daikatana's too-distant conclusion. —A. Paul Healy
(Eidos Interactive; \$39.95; www.daikatana.com)



Russia and China. The game has a decidedly World War II flavor, from the aircraft carrier-like barracks to the machine-gun-style ship weapons. In typical Roberts style, missions are introduced with rousing cinematic sequences and run the usual gamut of

escorts, rescues, and all-out assaults.

Also true to form, StarLancer looks positively stellar, with jaw-dropping movies, gorgeous explosions, richly detailed capital ships, and colorful space nebulae. The missions are challenging, and the game is fun. So what's the problem? There isn't one, except that StarLancer has little to distinguish it from recent competitors such as FreeSpace 2, Tachyon: The Fringe, or even the Roberts' own Wing Commander games. And the World War II tone, while a nice change of pace, adds nothing to the gameplay.

Though it does convey some interesting multiplayer options, including cooperative play of the single-player missions and a fun pass-the-bomb scenario, StarLancer is a been-there, done-that exercise that's likely to bore most seasoned space jockeys. It's fun to play, but better games are available.

—Rick Broida

(Microsoft Corp.; \$49.95; www.microsoft.com/games)

TACHYON: THE FRINGE

Have Ship, Will Travel

★★★★★ (RATED 1 TO 5 STARS)

Most game genres have up and down cycles, and the space-combat sector has definitely been up for the last few months. Some recent releases, such as Activision's real-time-strategy gem Star Trek: Armada, were surprisingly fresh, while others were of the all-too-familiar variety. Now, NovaLogic, developer of such classic battle sims as Armored Fist and Comanche, has thrown its helmet into the fray with Tachyon: The Fringe, a totally enjoyable and captivating space sim.

You play Jake Logan, a freelance fighter pilot who finds himself banished to the outskirts of space after being falsely convicted of sabotaging a space station. In The Fringe, Logan initially

works for both GalSpan, a powerful mining corporation, and the local Bora settlers. But he (or rather, you) must ultimately choose sides as the conflict between the two factions heats up.

Tachyon consists of 60-plus intriguing single-play missions that range from straightforward ship escorts to intense dogfights and rescues. Successful missions result in varying amounts of pay, which go toward upgrading your ship's weapons and subsystems, hiring wingmen, and eventually buying new ships. As good as these solo-play missions are, Tachyon shines in multiplayer mode with LAN-based death-matches for up to 16 players and team-play support for more than 100 players on NovaWorld (but no options for TCP/IP or modem-to-modem contests).

The game also scores big points for its advanced ship controls and enticing visuals, which include beautifully rendered 3D galaxies, sprawling star bases, and spectacular explosions. Even the voice acting is top-notch, especially actor Bruce Campbell (*Evil Dead*, *Xena*) in the part of Logan. It all adds up to an amazing adventure.

—A. P. H.

(NovaLogic; \$35; www.novalogic.com)



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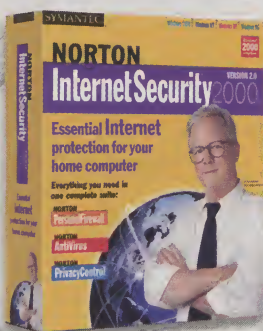
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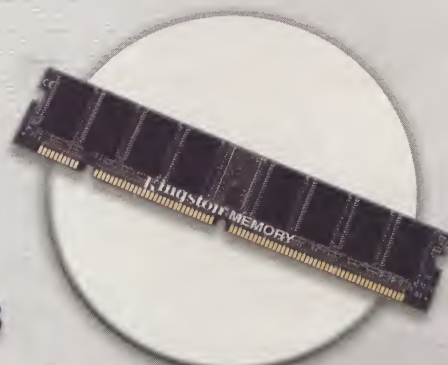
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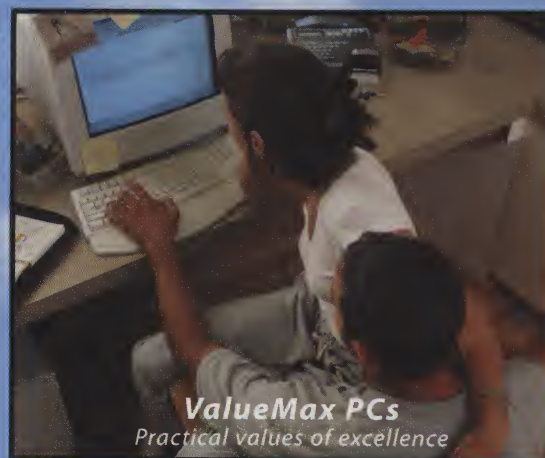
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PCs

Computing at GIGA speed

Who would have imagined that the era of consumer-level gigahertz (that's 1,000 megahertz) computing would have arrived so soon? Although most users still have little need at present for this much computing power, hard-core gamers and PC enthusiasts are likely to be lining up to acquire one of these high-end speed demons.

For this roundup we gathered five 1GHz systems—two Pentium IIIs and three AMD Athlons. With an average price of about \$2,800, the Athlon-based systems are noticeably less expensive than the Pentium III systems, which sell for \$3,399 and \$3,769. (In fact, the Compaq Presario 5900Z-1GHz's \$3,176 price tag actually skews the average price for the Athlon systems—the other two sell for a more affordable \$2,599 each.)

On the surface, all five desktops share similar configurations, so you have to dig a little deeper to discover why there are such significant price differences among them. For starters, the Pentium III systems use RDRAM—a much costlier memory architecture than the more traditional SDRAM found in the Athlon systems. Still, RDRAM's added expense does buy you slightly faster overall performance. As measured by Business Winstone 99, that performance gain is at most 10 percent. Is the extra money worth the small, perhaps unnoticeable, boost in speed?

Before you can answer that question, you'll need to consider a few other factors. Whereas all of these systems are similarly outfitted with DVD and CD-RW drives, large-capacity hard drives, nVidia GeForce 256-based graphics cards, 19-inch monitors, and Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Value audio cards, each of these packages takes a different approach to functionality, service and support, warranty, and even bundled software. The individual importance of any of these variables, along with performance and price, need to be weighed against your needs and desires. Simply stated, when you're spending this much money, you should carefully consider your options.

BY BILL O'BRIEN

Cutting-edge computing takes on a whole new meaning with the arrival of high-performance PCs based on the latest 1GHz processors from AMD and Intel.

< FACT FILE >

Category Tested	1GHz Desktop PCs
Price Range	\$2,599 to \$3,769
Minimum Configuration	1GHz processor (AMD Athlon or Intel Pentium III); 128MB RAM; 30GB hard drive; 3D graphics card with 32MB of RAM; 8x DVD-ROM drive; 8x/4x/32x CD-RW drive; 19-inch monitor; three-piece speaker system; V.90 modem
Companies Included	Compaq Computer Corp., CyberMax Computer, Dell Computer Corp., Systemax, Tiny Computers

COMPAQ PRESARIO 5900Z-1GHZ

PROS: Superior 3D-graphics performance; IEEE 1394 and USB ports on front of case; good software bundle
CONS: Slow hard drive and application performance

It's easy to single out the Compaq Presario 5900Z-1GHz as the most expensive of the three Athlon-powered computers included here. After all, with a \$3,176 price tag, the Presario costs almost \$600 more than the other two Athlon systems.

But the Presario fills in at least part of that gap with a few appealing extras, including an IEEE 1394 (FireWire) port and two USB ports conveniently located on the front of the case. (Identical ports are also duplicated on the system's rear panel.) The Presario's GeForce 256 graphics card also packs DDR SDRAM, a slightly faster type of memory than the SDRAM

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PCs

found on the graphics cards in the other two Athlon systems.

The faster graphics memory gives the Presario the boost it needs to deliver the fastest 3D performance of the AMD crowd—although it still lags behind the two DDR SDRAM-equipped Pentium IIIs. Moreover, the Presario has the slowest application performance of the five systems here, with a Business Winstone 99 score of 30.4. The culprit is the computer's slower hard drive subsystem, which is curious, considering that the Presario uses the same 40GB Maxtor hard drive found in three of the other systems.

Thankfully, you don't need the fastest hard drive to kick back and watch

movies—a job admirably handled by the Presario's 10x DVD-ROM drive, Compaq DVDEExpress software, and three-piece JBL Pro Premium speaker system.

Case makers should take a clue from Compaq's midtower design. The chassis slides completely free of the outer shell, exposing both sides of the system's internals—essential for removing or installing disk drives. In terms of future expansion, the Presario offers vacancies in two of five accessible drive bays, two of five PCI slots, and one of two DIMM sockets.

The Presario is covered by a one-year onsite warranty along with 24-hour, toll-free technical support—an acceptable minimum for premier systems these days. Extending the onsite coverage to three years costs an additional \$199. The Presario's software bundle consists of Microsoft Word, Works, Money, and

< FEATURE COMPARISON >

	Compaq Presario 5900Z-1GHz	CyberMax Enthusiast K7-1000	Dell Dimension XPS B1000r	Systemax Ascent PWV-1000A	Tiny Ultimate Power 1000 <small>beta</small>
DIRECT PRICE AS TESTED	\$3,176	\$2,599	\$3,769	\$2,599	\$3,399
CONFIGURATION					
Processor	1GHz AMD Athlon	1GHz AMD Athlon	1GHz Pentium III	1GHz AMD Athlon	1GHz Pentium III
RAM Installed	128MB SDRAM	128MB SDRAM	128MB RDRAM	128MB SDRAM	128MB RDRAM
Pipeline-Burst L2 Cache Installed	512K	512K	256K	512K	256K
Chip Set	AMD 751/Via 686A	Via KX133	Intel 820	AMD 750/756	Intel 820
Available Expansion Slots	Two PCI	One PCI, one shared	Two PCI	Three PCI, one shared	Two PCI
I/O Ports	Two PS/2, four USB, serial, parallel, VGA, game, two IEEE 1394, digital audio out	Two PS/2, two USB, two serial, parallel, VGA, game, S-Video out, digital audio out, DVI	Two PS/2, two USB, two serial, parallel, VGA, game, digital audio out, DVI	Two PS/2, two USB, two serial, parallel, VGA, game, S-Video out, digital audio out	Two PS/2, three USB, two serial, parallel, VGA, game, S-Video out, digital audio out
Hard Drive Rated Size/Manufacturer	40.9GB/Maxtor	40.9GB/Maxtor	40.9GB/Maxtor	30.7GB/Maxtor	40.9GB/Maxtor
Monitor	19-inch Compaq MV920	19-inch AmTran CX900DF	19-inch Dell P991	19-inch Systemax	19-inch Goldstar 19C
Graphics Processor	nVidia GeForce 256	nVidia GeForce 256	nVidia GeForce 256	nVidia GeForce 256	nVidia GeForce 256
Graphics Card	Creative Labs Annihilator Pro with 32MB DDR SDRAM	VisionTek GeForce 256 with 32MB SDRAM	OEM card with 64MB DDR SDRAM	Elsa Prophet with 32MB SDRAM	OEM card with 32MB DDR SDRAM
DVD-ROM Drive	10x Pioneer	12x Toshiba	12x NEC	10x Pioneer	8x Hitachi
DVD Decoder Software	Compaq DVDEExpress	Ravisent DVD Player	InterVideo WinDVD 2000	InterVideo WinDVD 2000	CyberLink PowerDVD
Sound Card	Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Value	Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Value	Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Value	Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Value	Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Value
Speakers	JBL Pro Premium (three-piece)	Cambridge SoundWorks FPS2000 Digital (five-piece)	Harman Kardon HK-595 (three-piece)	Monsoon MH-500 (three-piece)	Altec Lansing ACS33 (three-piece)
Additional Hardware	8x/4x/32x LG CD-RW, V.90/DSL Rockwell modem, 10/100Mbps Acton NIC	8x/4x/32x Sony CD-RW, V.90 Accord modem, 10/100Mbps Realtek NIC	8x/4x/32x Sony CD-RW, V.90 3Com modem, 10/100Mbps 3Com NIC	8x/4x/32x Sony CD-RW, V.90 3Com modem	8x/4x/32x TEAC CD-RW, V.90 PCTel modem, 10/100Mbps Intel NIC
SOFTWARE INCLUDED	Microsoft Word 2000, Works 2000, Money, Encarta Encyclopedia 2000, RioPort Audio Manager, Video Wave III, McAfee VirusScan	Corel WordPerfect Office 2000, Grolier Encyclopedia DVD, Starsiege, Master Cook, McAfee VirusScan, Tracker Pro, CyberSnoop, WebFerret, Audible Manager	Microsoft Office 2000 Small Business	Microsoft Works 2000	Microsoft Office 2000 Small Business, PC-cillin, PowerQuest SecondChance
SERVICE AND SUPPORT*					
Money-Back Guarantee/Restocking Fee	Yes/no	Yes/no	Yes/no	Yes/no	No/no
Standard Warranty (Parts and Labor)	One year, one year onsite	One year	Three years, one year onsite	Three years, one year onsite (five years parts on CPU and RAM)	Three year parts, one year labor
Extended/Upgraded Warranties	\$199 for three years total onsite	Information not available	\$99 for two years onsite, \$250 for three years onsite, \$400 for four years onsite	\$99 for three years onsite	\$99 for three years onsite
Live Toll-Free Tech-Support Hours (ET)	24 hours daily	9 a.m. to 6 p.m. M-F	24 hours daily	24 hours daily	24 hours daily
Who Pays for Shipping Under Warranty	NA (depot service)	Company pays one way	Company pays both ways	Company pays both ways	Company pays both ways
Online Tech Support	Web, e-mail, BBS	Information not available	Web, e-mail, BBS	Web, e-mail, BBS	Web, e-mail, BBS

* = According to vendor or manufacturer NA = Not applicable

Encarta, among other titles.

Overall, the Presario is a well-designed system that offers a fair compromise between the other, less expensive Athlon systems and the pricier Pentium III desktops.

CYBERMAX ENTHUSIAST K7-1000

★★★

PROS: Excellent price; great-sounding speaker system
CONS: Disappointing graphics performance; limited standard warranty; full service-and-support policy details not available

If you can forgo the extra bit of performance afforded by the Pentium III systems, CyberMax's Athlon-based Enthusiast K7-1000 is a strong alternative. Tied for the group low at \$2,599, the Enthusiast includes a few extras, such as a digital audio system and a substantial software bundle.

Although all of the systems in this roundup use GeForce 256-based graphics cards, the Enthusiast—along with the Systemax Ascent PVW-1000A—put out the slowest overall graphics performance of the roundup. But if games aren't your number-one priority, the Enthusiast's Business Winstone 99 score of 31.6 proves this system can deliver when it comes to application performance.

With its 12x DVD-ROM drive, 8x CD-RW drive, 19-inch AmTran monitor, and five-piece Cambridge SoundWorks

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FPS2000 Digital speaker system, the Enthusiast is excellent for watching movies, listening to music, or creating your own audio CDs. The Enthusiast also is the only system here that includes a digital five-piece speaker system, and its audio quality is perhaps the best of the group. The system additionally has quite an extensive family-oriented software bundle, including Corel WordPerfect Office 2000, Grolier Encyclopedia on DVD, and Starsiege.

The midtower case comes with one empty accessible drive bay and two vacant internal bays. Of the system's four PCI slots, only one is available; the PCI/ISA shared slot is also empty. Two of the three DIMM sockets are unoccupied as well.

CyberMax's service-and-support policies are the least comprehensive of the vendors represented in this roundup. Not only is CyberMax alone in its lack of 24-hour phone support, but the system comes with only a one-year parts-and-labor warranty.

Compaq Presario 5900Z-1GHz, CyberMax Enthusiast K7-1000, Dell Dimension XPS B1000r



See RDRAM Run

About five years ago, RDRAM was conceived as high-speed graphics memory. It's a fairly expensive technology, and it never gained widespread acceptance as a graphics-memory architecture. However, with a strong push from Intel, industry interest in RDRAM for use as system memory has increased over the past year. Intel sees RDRAM as the perfect mate for its Pentium III CPUs as well as for future processors.

The most popular version of RDRAM used in desktop systems today runs at 700MHz and has a peak memory bandwidth of 1.4GB/sec. (The Dell Dimension XPS B1000r and Tiny Ultimate Power 1000 both use 700MHz RDRAM.) But when you compare this to the 1.1GB/sec peak bandwidth of 133MHz SDRAM—the memory of choice these days for SDRAM-based systems—there isn't that much of a performance gap.

We found a 700MHz 128MB RDRAM RIMM selling for \$585, while a 133MHz 128MB SDRAM DIMM was listed for \$228. That's a big difference in cost for a small gain in performance. RDRAM that runs at 800MHz is currently available, and its peak bandwidth is 1.6GB/sec, but it is even more expensive and availability is limited.

RDRAM may meet its match, however, with DDR SDRAM. Although DDR SDRAM's current mainstream use is as graphics memory, its application as system memory is on the horizon. When we see DDR SDRAM used as system memory, it will have clock speeds of 100MHz and 120MHz. DDR can be accessed twice during each clock cycle (like RDRAM), so its data-transfer frequency is 200MHz for the slower type and 240MHz for its faster sibling, with peak bandwidths of 1.6GB/sec and 1.9GB/sec, respectively. Moreover, DDR SDRAM is expected to cost significantly less than RDRAM. Expect to see DDR SDRAM-based systems by the end of the year. ▼

Memory type and speed	Peak bandwidth (GB/sec)
100MHz SDRAM	0.8
133MHz SDRAM	1.1
700MHz RDRAM	1.4
800MHz RDRAM	1.6
100MHz DDR SDRAM	1.6
120MHz DDR SDRAM	1.9

Service is supported via phone diagnostics and parts shipping, or, at the company's discretion, you can return the system to CyberMax for repair. (The company claims an average 48-hour turnaround.) As we went to press, CyberMax was still in the process of reviewing its policies concerning extended warranties and online support.

Without knowing the details of CyberMax's new support policies, and the additional costs for an extended warranty (something we'd recommend), we can only give this PC a hardy nod, where it might have earned an enthusiastic thumbs-up.

DELL DIMENSION XPS B1000R

★★★★

PROS: Excellent performance; outstanding after-sale support; impressive-sounding audio
CONS: Very expensive

Dell's Dimension B Series systems are its top-of-the-line models, targeted at users who demand uncompromising performance. The Dimension XPS B1000r easily fits that profile with its 1GHz Pentium III processor, 128MB of RDRAM, and GeForce 256 graphics card stocked

**PERFORMANCE
PCs**

with 64MB of DDR memory—twice the amount of graphics memory of any other system here. But at \$3,769, the Dimension is not only the most expensive system of the group, it costs almost \$1,200 more than the least expensive Athlon systems we looked at.

With these advanced technologies revving its engine, it's no wonder the Dimension shares top honors in nearly every performance category with the other Pentium III and RDRAM-equipped system, the Tiny Ultimate Power 1000. In fact, the Dimension's single advantage over the Ultimate Power

monitor was among the best of the group, well-suited to playing games and watching movies. Dell's choice of the three-piece Harman Kardon HK-595 speaker system also adds excellent sound quality to the experience, but if maximum DVD enjoyment is your intent, we'd suggest opting for the Altec Lansing ADA885 Dolby Digital system (a \$120 upgrade). The Dimension's software bundle is rather skimpy, however; it ships with only the

and-labor coverage with one year of onsite service. A variety of extended warranty options are available, including four years total of onsite coverage for \$400.

SYSTEMAX ASCENT PVW-1000A ★ ★ ★

PROS: Excellent price

CONS: Outdated drivers; disappointing graphics performance; no network interface card; smaller hard drive than competing systems

It's a bit slower than the Pentium III systems, but Systemax's Athlon-based Ascent PVW-1000A comes close to the Pentium III level of fast performance—but at a much lower price. Selling for \$2,599, the Ascent ties with the CyberMax Enthusiast K7-1000 for low-price honors among these five systems.

Like the CyberMax system, the Ascent uses a GeForce 256-based graphics card with 32MB of SDRAM. The Ascent's 3D-graphics performance should be more than enough for the casual game player, though it lags a bit behind the swifter response times of the DDR-based graphics cards of the two Pentium III systems. Still, all of the Ascent's test results, including its 31.2 Business Winstone 99 score, are on target for a 1GHz Athlon system, and just barely slower than those posted by the 1GHz Pentium III computers.

The system is not perfect, however. We ran into a few problems when running our benchmarks, which required us to update several device drivers. We could easily pass this off as a simple oversight, but we had a similar problem with another Systemax PC we looked at for our May issue. The Ascent also is the only system here that does not come with a 10/100Mbps network interface card—a problem if you're considering a broadband connection to the Internet. Additionally, all the other systems come with 40GB hard drives, while the Ascent's drive holds only 30GB.

(continued on page 164)



Systemax Ascent PVW-1000A,
Tiny Ultimate Power 1000

1000 is its hard drive performance, which is a noticeable 21 percent faster than the identical drive in Tiny's system. Moreover, the Dimension's 33.6 score on Business Winstone 99 represents the highest application performance we've seen to date.


When your workday ends, the Dimension is more than ready for some leisure-time activity. Dell's 19-inch P991

Microsoft Office 2000 Small Business suite.

The midtower case features two unused accessible drive bays, with another vacant bay inside the case. Two of the five PCI slots are available for future expansion, as is one of the two RDRAM sockets.

Dell's illustrated step-by-step setup guide and manuals are among the best you'll find, and its toll-free technical support is available around the clock. The basic warranty offers three years of parts-

< COMPUTER SHOPPER BENCHMARKS >

 HIGHER SCORES ARE BETTER	Compaq Presario 5900Z-1GHz	CyberMax Enthusiast K7-1000	Dell Dimension XPS B1000r	Systemax Ascent PVW-1000A	Tiny Ultimate Power 1000 <i>beta</i>	Benchmark System: Dell XPS T700r
PROCESSOR TYPE	1GHz AMD Athlon	1GHz AMD Athlon	1GHz Intel Pentium III	1GHz AMD Athlon	1GHz Intel Pentium III	700MHz Pentium III
SYSTEM MEMORY	128MB SDRAM	128MB SDRAM	128MB RDRAM	128MB SDRAM	128MB RDRAM	128MB SDRAM
APPLICATION PERFORMANCE						
Business Winstone 99	30.4	31.6	33.6	31.2	33.0	30.0
PROCESSOR SUBSYSTEM						
CPUMark 99	77.3	79.4	85.9	80.5	86.3	62.5
GRAPHICS SUBSYSTEM						
Business Graphics WinMark 99						
16.8 Million Colors @ 1,024x768	386	367	416	380	430	290
3D WinMark 2000						
65,536 Colors @ 1,024x768	86	75	96	73	97	79
65,536 Colors @ 800x600	114	102	130	98	132	107
DISK SUBSYSTEM						
Business Disk WinMark 99	4,820	6,100	6,110	6,160	5,030	5,190

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NOTEBOOKS

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DESKTOPS

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⁷GB means one billion bytes when referring to hard drive capacity. Accessible capacity may vary. ⁸Variable read rate. Actual playback speed will vary and is often less than the maximum possible. ⁹These modems are designed to be capable of receiving data up to 56Kbps from a compatible service provider, and transmitting data at up to 31.2Kbps. Public networks currently limit maximum download speeds to about 53Kbps. Actual speeds depend on many factors and are often less than the maximum possible. ¹⁰Weight and thickness may vary due to vendor components, manufacturing process and options. ¹¹SuccessLease is offered and administered in the US and Canada by third-party providers of business financing approved by IBM Global Financing. Featured monthly lease payments are based on a 36-month term with prespecified purchase option at the end of lease, to qualified business customers only, installing in the US. A documentation fee and first month's payment due at lease signing. Any taxes are additional. Other lease terms and structures are available. Offer may be withdrawn or changed without notice. Options must be leased with system unit. SuccessLease is an IBM trademark. ¹²For terms and conditions or copies of IBM's Statement of Limited Warranty, call 1 800 772-2227 in the US and in Canada call 1 800 426-2255. Limited warranty includes International Warranty Service in those countries where this product is offered. Telephone support may be subject to additional charges. All products ship with an operating system. IBM reserves the right to alter/withdraw offerings at any time, without notice. SuccessLease and all IBM product names are registered trademarks or trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation. Intel, the Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and Celeron and SpeedStep are trademarks of Intel Corporation. Microsoft and Windows are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. Other company, product and service names may be trademarks or service marks of others. ©2000 IBM Corp. All rights reserved.

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- ☐ 26 Teacher Aide
- ☐ 15 Home Inspector
- ☐ 102 Professional Landscaper
- ☐ 84 Pharmacy Technician
- ☐ 39 Medical Transcriptionist
- ☐ 381 Medical Insurance Clerk
- ☐ 35 Travel Agent
- ☐ 72 Appliance Repair
- ☐ 58 Private Investigator
- ☐ 89 Small Engine Repair
- ☐ 83 Web Page Designer
- ☐ 151 Plumber
- ☐ 387 Telecommunications Technician
- ☐ 384 Furniture & Cabinet Maker
- ☐ 105 Computer Graphic Artist
- ☐ 383 Occupational Therapy Aide
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- ☐ 389 Spanish*
- ☐ 73 Court Reporter

Computer Programming

- ☐ 01 Programming in BASIC
- ☐ 37 Visual Basic*
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*Certificate Programs

(continued from page 160)

Nevertheless, Systemax's house-brand 19-inch monitor is great for graphics and DVD movie playback. In fact, the display, 10x DVD-ROM drive, and three-piece Monsoon MH-500 speaker system make for a terrific personal home theater. The bass response, however, occasionally rumbled at higher volumes.

The system is housed in a midtower case with two free accessible drive bays and an empty internal bay. Three of the five PCI slots are unoccupied, as is the shared slot. Of the system's three DIMM sockets, two remain unpopulated.

The Ascent is covered by a three-year warranty (five years of parts coverage on the CPU and memory), with the first year handled onsite. Systemax also provides 24-hour, toll-free support. You can purchase the Ascent direct from Dartek, Global, MidWest Micro, and Tiger. All of these vendors offer an optional \$99 three-year onsite warranty and let you customize your system's configuration.

Microsoft Works 2000 is the only software bundled with the system, which, while not robust as a full productivity suite, does provide several useful applications.

The Ascent is a quality package at an affordable price. But its driver problems, smaller hard drive, and lack of network card may be areas of concern for some users.

TINY ULTIMATE POWER 1000

★★★

PROS: Excellent performance**CONS:** Limited warranty; quality of audio and display doesn't measure up to competition

beta Although it's a relative newcomer to the U.S. market, Tiny Computers, the United Kingdom's largest PC seller, is doing a good job of keeping the competi-

PERFORMANCE PCs

tion on its toes. Tiny's \$3,399 Ultimate Power 1000 matches almost all of the Dell Dimension's performance numbers and undercuts its price by nearly \$400.

Packing a Pentium III processor and RDRAM memory, the Ultimate Power

well as a huge fan inside the current case, will give way to a more traditional closed-box look and a normal-size heat sink and fan on the CPU. The motherboard and components will stay the same, with two of the five PCI slots and one of the two RIMM sockets vacant.

The Ultimate Power's software bundle is small, but it includes Microsoft Office 2000. Tiny offers toll-free customer support 24 hours daily and covers the Ultimate Power with a three-year parts, one-year labor warranty. Onsite support is not included, but you can upgrade to three years of onsite service for \$99. Note that Tiny does not offer a money-back guarantee and charges a 15 percent fee for canceled orders.

While the Ultimate Power may be significantly less expensive than the Dell Dimension—even when you factor in the onsite-service upgrade—the Ultimate Power is still costlier than the Athlon-based systems. If you're seeking the maximum performance this class of system can muster, however, the Ultimate Power offers it at a relatively reasonable price.

HEADING TO THE GIG




Although the Business Winstone 99 results of the five computers reviewed here vary by, at most, 10 percent, the systems have considerable differences in their components (such as speakers and monitors), software bundles, and support details.

If top speed is your number-one priority—and money is no object—the Pentium III-based Dell Dimension XPS B1000r will not disappoint. Not only did this system turn in the top benchmark scores, but its warranty is also top-notch. Tiny Computers' Ultimate Power 1000 offers comparable performance and costs nearly \$400 less than the Dell, but the price does not include any onsite coverage.

Among the three AMD-based systems, the Compaq Presario 5900Z-1GHz stood out for its excellent graphics performance and smartly designed case. The CyberMax Enthusiast K7-1000 gets points for its digital speaker system, large software bundle, and low \$2,599 price (although it also has

the sparest support policy here). Finally, despite its somewhat smaller hard drive and several outdated device drivers, the Systemax Ascent PVW-1000A offers plenty of expansion room and the most comprehensive warranty of the Athlon systems. ▼

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knocked out a Business Winstone 99 score of 33, essentially tying the Dimension's impressive application performance.

Likewise, the Ultimate Power's 2D- and 3D-graphics scores were similarly top-drawer. The only area in which the Ultimate Power doesn't excel is hard drive performance, despite the fact that it uses the same 40GB Maxtor hard drive as three of the other systems.

The Ultimate Power 1000 is ready to serve up games, music, or DVD movies. The three-piece Altec Lansing ACS33 speaker system pumps out quality audio, though it's not quite as powerful as some of the other speakers included here. The Goldstar 19C monitor supplies a reasonably good-looking display, although its colors are a bit muted. We were also surprised by how much noise the monitor makes when it changes resolutions and even when booting up, when the Windows splash screen gives way to the Windows desktop.

By the time you read this, the Ultimate Power will have a new case design. The system will feature one free accessible drive bay and one unoccupied internal bay. A large vent on the side of the case, as

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Compaq Presario 5900Z-1GHz	33800
CyberMax Enthusiast K7-1000	33801
Dell Dimension XPS B1000r	33802
Systemax Ascent PVW-1000A	33803
Tiny Ultimate Power 1000	33804

For real-time pricing, go to priceit.zdnet.com and enter number.

< PRODUCT SUMMARY >

RATED 1 TO 5 STARS	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★
SYSTEM	Compaq Presario 5900Z-1GHz	CyberMax Enthusiast K7-1000	Dell Dimension XPS B1000r	Systemax Ascent PVW-1000A	Tiny Ultimate Power 1000 beta
COMPANY	Compaq Computer Corp. Houston, TX 800-888-0220 www.compaq.com	CyberMax Computer Warren, NJ 888-835-2402 www.cybermaxpc.com	Dell Computer Corp. Round Rock, TX 800-388-8542 www.dell.com	Systemax Port Washington, NY 800-875-8430 www.systemaxpc.com	Tiny Computers Tacoma, WA 888-818-8469 www.tiny.com/us
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19-INCH
FLAT-FACE CRTs

SCREEN JEMS

by **DAVID ENGLISH**

With sparkling clarity, large screens, and bargain prices, today's flat-face CRT displays offer a feast for the eyes.

If it's been a while since you've shopped around for a monitor, the newest flat-face models will come as a welcome sight. For less than \$500, you can get a 19-inch model similar to the CRT that cost you \$1,000 three years ago—only now, it's a much better monitor, with razor-sharp images across the entire screen.

Curved CRTs have to compensate for the concave angles of the screen, which makes the picture less accurate. Flat-face screens, on the other hand, do not suffer from the concave effect, so straight lines appear straight. Because the light is reflected away from your eyes, flat screens also reduce glare. Most models are additionally treated with an antiglare coating.

Sharpness and glare reduction are particularly important for large monitors. Two years ago, a typical desktop had a 15-inch monitor. Today, most desktops are outfitted with a 17-inch monitor, with 19-inch models coming on strong. The push toward larger monitors is due, in part, to the sophistication of present-day graphics-card technology. The current generation of graphics cards

can easily handle the higher 1,280x1,024 and 1,600x1,200 resolutions these bigger monitors support, even at 24- or 32-bit color. Although a 17-inch monitor might be able to display these higher resolutions, you'd have to squint to read the text and find the icons. A 19-inch monitor simply provides a better, full-size view of your application, whether it's a word processor, spreadsheet, or game. You also can have several applications open at once, without them being squeezed together.

The six monitors reviewed here are flat-face 19-inch models that sell for less than \$500, but they have some important differences. All the monitors use aperture-grille technology, except for the Hitachi CM771, which uses Invar shadow-mask (also known as flat-square) technology. Because the aperture-grille-based monitors use stripes instead of discrete dots, their phosphor pitch is measured as the center distance between two phosphor stripes of the same color. Technically, this is known as "stripe pitch" or "trio pitch," although it's often referred to, incorrectly, as dot pitch. Invar shadow-mask monitors, meanwhile, measure their phos-

phor pitch as the center distance between two dots of the same color—a more accurate definition of dot pitch.

The picture tube is the monitor's most important component, so you should plan to spend some time examining the color and geometric accuracy of each type so you can better match your preferences. Of the five aperture-grille monitors included here, three—the ADI MicroScan G910, CTX PR960F, and Mag InnoVision 810FD—use Sony's FD Trinitron tube, and two—the Acer P911 and Samsung SyncMaster 900NF—use Mitsubishi's flat-face Diamondtron tube. The Hitachi unit uses its own ErgoFlat shadow-mask tube.

< FACT FILE >

Category Tested	19-Inch Flat-Face Monitors
Price Range	Less than \$500
Companies Included	Acer Peripherals America, ADI Systems, CTX International, Hitachi America, Mag InnoVision, Samsung Electronics America
	Hitachi CM771: Superior display capabilities, straightforward controls, and a slightly lower price help this monitor edge out the competition.

**19-INCH
FLAT-FACE CRTs**

Because the monitors sell for under \$500, they don't have an abundance of extra features. All six have onscreen controls and support a mix of environmental standards for power conservation and reduced radiation. Only one model, the CTX, includes a USB hub, but the Acer, ADI, and Samsung offer USB hubs as a user-installed option.

Overall, we were impressed by the image quality of this group. You really can spend less than \$500 and get a high-quality, flat-face 19-inch monitor to complete your desktop image.

ACER P911 ★ ★ ★

PROS: Handles small text well; excellent contrast; BNC connectors

CONS: Clunky onscreen control; limited features; oversize case

At first glance, the no-frills Acer P911 appears to have few redeeming qualities. The onscreen controls are accessed

through a clunky push-and-turn dial, and it doesn't have a built-in microphone, USB hub, or other ancillary features. The only concession to niche users is the inclusion of a set of BNC video-input connectors, in addition to the traditional VGA connector.

And with its oversize design, the \$497-average P911 requires plenty of desktop space. In fact, it's the tallest and widest of the six units reviewed here, measuring 19.8x18.5x18.4 inches (HWD). It's also the heaviest of our six monitors, weighing a backbreaking 61.6 pounds.

However, the Mitsubishi Diamondtron tube displays exceptionally sharp images, even at the highest resolutions. We found 10-point text to be quite readable at 1,600x1,200, even though the focus became


softer as we exceeded 1,280x1,024, which was to be expected. Our test screens remained uniformly sharp and evenly lit.

We did experience a slight shift toward green with some of the gray-scale patterns, though this wasn't noticeable enough to be objectionable. A moiré pattern in some tests was successfully eliminated using the onscreen control for horizontal moiré corrections. (The monitor lacks a control for vertical moiré patterns.) We were particularly impressed by the monitor's contrast range. The blacks remained solid, even when the whites were adjusted for optimal levels.

Acer's warranty is also as substantial as the monitor itself, with coverage for a full three years, including a one-year, 48-hour-swap program.

If you care about sharp focus and a strong warranty, but don't need the extras, the Acer P911 is an excellent choice.

< FEATURE COMPARISON >

To view the complete version of this table online, go to cgl.zdnet.com/slink?40699	Acer P911	ADI MicroScan G910	CTX PR960F	Hitachi CM771 	Mag InnoVision 810FD	Samsung SyncMaster 900NF
AVERAGE PRICE	\$497	\$470	\$460	\$447	\$499	\$449
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS						
Viewable Screen Size (Diagonal, Inches)	18	18	18	18	18	18
Tube Type	Aperture grille	Aperture grille	Aperture grille	Invar shadow mask	Aperture grille	Aperture grille
CRT Manufacturer/Model	Mitsubishi/Diamondtron	Sony/FD Trinitron	Sony/FD Trinitron	Hitachi/ErgoFlat	Sony/FD Trinitron	Mitsubishi/Diamondtron
Dot or Stripe Pitch	0.25mm diagonal stripe pitch	0.24mm horizontal stripe pitch	0.24mm horizontal stripe pitch	0.22mm horizontal dot pitch	0.24mm horizontal stripe pitch	0.25mm horizontal stripe pitch
Dimensions (HWD)	19.8x18.5x18.4	18.5x18.2x18.5	18.5x18x19.1	17.4x17.6x17.7	18.1x18.2x18.3	18x18.4x19.4
Weight (Pounds)	61.6	55	57	53	48.4	55.8
Connectors	VGA, five BNC, optional USB	VGA, optional USB	VGA, five BNC, four USB	VGA	VGA	VGA, five BNC, optional USB
USB Ports Powered?	Optional USB not powered; comes with separate power adapter	Optional \$29 USB hub is powered	Yes	NA	Yes	Optional
OPERATIONAL FEATURES						
Vertical Scan Range (Minimum to Maximum)	50Hz to 160Hz	50Hz to 160Hz	50Hz to 160Hz	50Hz to 160Hz	50Hz to 160Hz	50Hz to 160Hz
Horizontal Scan Range (Minimum to Maximum)	30KHz to 107KHz	30KHz to 110KHz	30KHz to 110KHz	31KHz to 96KHz	30KHz to 110KHz	30KHz to 110KHz
Maximum NI Resolution Supported	1,920x1,440 @ 71Hz	1,920x1,440 @ 75Hz	1,600x1,200 @ 87Hz	1,600x1,200 @ 75Hz	1,920x1,440 @ 75Hz	1,920x1,440 @ 73Hz
STANDARDS COMPLIANCE						
Energy Star	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
DPMS	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
NUTEK	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
TCO '99	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Optional	Yes
SOFTWARE						
INF File Supplied	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
ICM File Supplied	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
INF File Available for Download	Yes	No	Will be soon	Yes	Yes	No
ICM File Available for Download	Yes	No	Will be soon	Yes	Yes	No
Bundled Software	Colorific color-calibration software	None	None	None	None	Colorific color-calibration software
SERVICE AND SUPPORT						
Standard Warranty (Parts and Labor)	Three years	Three years	Three years	Three years	Three years	Three years
Quick-Exchange Program Under Warranty	48-hour Hot Swap, cross-shipping	EZ Swap Advance Replacement	48-hour exchange available through CTX resellers only	Optional separate purchase	RMA number given, Mag takes credit card as collateral, replacement unit sent, and customer sends back defective unit or part	Advance replacement for one year
Extended Warranty Options	None	48-hour replacement service for \$109	None	None	Five years total, \$94.95	None
Toll-Free Technical Support	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tech-Support Hours (ET)	24 hours daily	11:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. M-F	9 a.m. to 9 p.m. M-F	8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. M-F	9 a.m. to 8 p.m. M-F	24 hours daily
Online Tech Support	E-mail, Web	E-mail, Web	E-mail	E-mail, Web	E-mail, fax	E-mail

NA = Not applicable

How We Tested

All six monitors were tested on a 450MHz Pentium III micronpc.com ClientPro desktop with 64MB of SDRAM, running Windows 98 Second Edition and DirectX 7.0. The graphics adapter was a Number Nine Revolution IV graphics card with 32MB of memory. We used DisplayMate from DisplayMate Technologies (www.displaymate.com) to test the monitors at a 32-bit color depth and 85Hz refresh rate at the following resolutions: 640x480, 800x600, 1,024x768, 1,280x1,024, and 1,600x1,200.

If the monitor included INF and ICM files, we installed them. Otherwise, we set the monitor as a plug-and-play monitor, unless instructed differently by the documentation. If the monitor did not support 85Hz at the higher resolutions, we chose the next-highest refresh rate available.

Each monitor was powered on for at least half an hour before we started testing. We adjusted the brightness and contrast before each series of tests, with particularly close attention paid to the following tests: circular geometry, crosshatch, and dot; internal pincushion or barrel distortion; screen regulation; scaled fonts; focus matrix; moiré montage; static color registration; APL black-level shift; and APL gray-scale shift. Overall, each monitor was evaluated for its ability to display solid geometry, vivid colors, a sharp focus, and a bright image. ▼

ADI MICROSCAN G910 ★★ ★

PROS: Sharp focus at higher resolutions; built-in microphone
CONS: Excessive moiré patterns at 1,280x1,024 resolution

The name ADI Systems may not ring a bell, but this company has been a long-time OEM supplier of monitors to many leading PC manufacturers. ADI Systems' \$470-average MicroScan G910 uses Sony's FD Trinitron tube, which provides exceptional sharpness and image clarity.

Most people choose a 19-inch monitor over a 17-inch monitor to bump up the resolution a notch or two. If that's your intention, you should pay close attention to the degree and consistency of the monitor's focus at the higher resolutions. We experienced excessive moiré patterns during our tests at 1,280x1,024, though the G910 performed extremely well at this and higher resolutions.

While most 19-inch monitors suffer some image degradation when the resolution exceeds 1,024x768, we found the G910 to be very usable at 1,280x1,024 and moderately usable at 1,600x1,200. The sharpness is the result of the monitor's tight 0.24mm stripe pitch. Many other 19-inch monitors

19-INCH FLAT-FACE CRTs

have a 0.25mm or higher stripe pitch.

The onscreen controls let you tweak a good range of geometric parameters, including horizontal and vertical linearity, horizontal and vertical moiré, and top- and bottom-corner adjustments. But those adjustments come with a few trade-offs. For example, we were able to remove the excessive moiré patterns from our tests, but only by sacrificing some clarity with 9-

Windows controls. You can also store settings for different scenarios or restore the factory settings direct from the desktop.

Like the ADI MicroScan G910, the CTX uses Sony's FD Trinitron tube with a 0.24mm aperture-grille stripe pitch. The monitor performed fine throughout our tests, displaying sharp images at both 1,280x1,024 and 1,600x1,200. At 1,600x1,200, however, the PR960F did exhibit some unusual distortion with inverse text (white letters on a black background), which inhibited readability.

The distortion was confined to the



Acer P911 and ADI MicroScan G910

to 12-point text.

The G910 has some interesting extras. A tiny microphone is built into the top of the screen, and you can attach optional multimedia speakers to the sides of the monitor. An optional USB powered hub is also available.

The included three-year EZ Swap warranty program lets you swap out your monitor for an equal-size replacement if it fails. You can also choose the optional 48-Hours Express program for an additional \$109, which guarantees that the exchange will take place within 48 hours of approval.

CTX PR960F ★★ ★ ★

PROS: Clear image at higher resolutions; monitor control from the Windows desktop; includes USB hub
CONS: Difficulty with inverse text at highest resolutions

The CTX PR960F offers both excellent image quality and plenty of convenience. In addition to its four-button user controls positioned on the front, the \$460-average monitor provides access to most of its settings from the Windows desktop via a USB cable. Instead of having to remember which buttons move you through the menus and which buttons select the menu settings, you can point and click using a standard set of

1,600x1,200 resolution and was visible only with inverse text throughout our tests. A closer examination found a slight ghosting effect on the white letters, which distorted their sharpness and contrast. The phenomenon did not occur with black text on a white background.

Other features include four powered 500mA USB ports—two in the back, and two on the right side. The ports are ideal for USB peripherals, including scanners and modems. BNC video inputs are provided along with a VGA connector.

With its sharp-focus, flat-screen Trinitron tube and full USB support, the CTX PR960F is a winning combination, despite the slight anomalies we experienced during our tests.

HITACHI CM771 ★★ ★ ★

PROS: Superior sharpness and brightness; short-neck tube; easy-to-use control system
CONS: No extra features



Some monitors follow the pack; others blaze a trail. As the world's first flat-face, Invar shadow-mask monitor, the Hitachi CM771 does the latter. Unlike aperture-grille monitors, which require periodic

adjustment of convergence settings, the \$447-average CM771 has a specially shaped reflection yoke, which, according to Hitachi, is better able to hold its convergence settings. (We were unable to test how often you'll need to adjust the settings.)

The company also claims that the CM771's Hitachi-manufactured ErgoFlat tube has a 0.22mm horizontal dot pitch and is 10 percent brighter than the average flat-face picture tube. Moreover, the ErgoFlat is

19-INCH FLAT-FACE CRTs

even at the highest resolutions. Meanwhile, the additional brightness was evident in our gray-scale tests, in which the CM771 displayed an exceptional range of tonal shades, from a dead-of-night black to an almost-too-bright white.

The CM771's multibutton control system is also the best we've seen. Five buttons



CTX PR960F and Hitachi CM771

a short-neck tube, so the monitor itself has a depth of only 17.7 inches, the shortest of the six monitors we reviewed.

Our test results showed the CM771 to have superior sharpness and brightness. Of the six monitors tested, the CM771 displayed the most legible 6.8- and 7.5-point text at 1,600x1,200. Our horizontal line resolution tests showed a finely detailed image,

on the front of the monitor provide access to the onscreen controls, and they're much easier to navigate than the controls on many other monitors, especially the clunky one-button control found on the Acer P911.

We were wowed by the performance of the Hitachi CM771, especially at 1,280x1,024 and 1,600x1,200. If image sharpness and brightness are more important than conve-

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niences such as a built-in microphone or extra USB ports, this monitor should be your top choice.

MAG INNOVISION 810FD ★★★★★

PROS: Exceptionally sharp screen; easy-to-use JAG control; preconfigured e-Video settings

CONS: No extra features

In theory, the performance of the \$499-average Mag InnoVision 810FD should have been similar to that of the other monitors we reviewed that use the Sony FD Trinitron tube. However, we found the 810FD to have a slightly sharper image at 1,024x768, 1,280x1,024, and 1,600x1,200. This might be due to better adjusting at the factory.

Whatever the reason, the 810FD was the Trinitron monitor that came closest in overall performance to the Hitachi CM771. We were most impressed by its lack of high-contrast streaking and image halos. Graphics-based screens were rock-steady, and contrasting colors were sharply defined and didn't bleed at the edges.

The 810FD's onscreen display panel is

MONITORING YOUR HEALTH

When shopping for a monitor, you're bound to encounter an alphabet soup of acronyms pertaining to electromagnetic emissions—including MPR II, TCO '99, DPMS, and NUTEK—that will leave you wondering if you should use a monitor at all. The good news is that the dangers of emissions are still unproven, and are unlikely to be a major threat given the rigorous standards now in place.

The acronyms are essentially certifications for electromagnetic-emission and power-consumption standards. MPR II limits very-low-frequency (VLF) and extremely-low-frequency (ELF) emissions from the monitor, usually by adding extra magnetic shielding. TCO '99 sets even stricter emission standards, and DPMS (Display Power Management Signaling) powers down the monitor when it receives a signal

from a DPMS-compliant graphics card, so the monitor can enter a power-saving sleep mode.

The Swedish NUTEK standard provides an even lower power-consumption mode when coupled with an Energy Star-compliant desktop system. Many of these standards have been strengthened over the years, so you may encounter TCO '92, TCO '96, and TCO '99 monitors, as well as MPR I and MPR II monitors. A higher number indicates a more stringent standard.

Other factors to consider include the curvature of the monitor. A flatter monitor will cause less eyestrain and glare. Flat-face CRTs have straight lines and a consistent focus across the screen, so your brain doesn't have to work overtime to compensate for the monitor's imperfections.

You should also be on the lookout for refresh rates that are too low. Anything less than 75Hz can cause the screen to flicker and possibly give you a headache or eyestrain. (Be sure that your graphics card and monitor can handle a noninterlaced vertical refresh rate of at least 75Hz at the highest resolution that you plan to use.)

It's also important to position the monitor properly. It should be at eye level and at least 24 inches away from your face. Many computer users have their monitors positioned too low and too close. Most of us lean into our monitors, instead of sitting straight in our chairs. That's a formula for neck pain and backaches. A little care taken now could save you hundreds or even thousands of dollars in future medical bills. ▼

controlled with a single button, similar to the Acer P911. In this case, though, the setup works well because the push-and-dial button is an easy-to-use JAG control, which provides access to a full range of settings, including separate focus, moiré, and convergence adjustments for both horizontal and vertical directions. Simply spin it until you find the right option, and press to select. Because the onscreen menus are so intuitive, we actually preferred this design to the traditional multibutton design.

The 810FD also features an unusual set of specialized controls. Five preconfigured e-Video settings are optimized for high-resolution graphics applications, such as image editing, animation, DVD movies, video input, and 3D games. The e-Video display modes adjust the size, brightness, color temperature, and sharpness of the display image.

With its remarkably sharp Trinitron tube and easy-to-use onscreen controls, the Mag InnoVision 810FD is worth serious consideration.

SAMSUNG SYNCMASTER 900NF ★★★★★

PROS: Handles small text especially well; rich and vibrant colors; recessed control panel

CONS: Depth of 19.4 inches

Like the Acer P911, the Samsung SyncMaster 900NF uses a flat-face Mitsubishi Diamondtron tube with aperture-grille technology and a 0.25mm stripe pitch. The \$449-average Samsung performed extremely well on our tests, handling 6.8- and 7.5-point text at 1,600x1,200 slightly better than the Hitachi CM771.

Black-on-white and white-on-black text also looked better on the 900NF than on any of the other five monitors. Our horizontal line resolution tests showed the 900NF to be a solid performer, though not quite as sharp as the Hitachi or Mag InnoVision monitors. The Samsung's colors were rich and vibrant, and we were able to easily distinguish between closely related shades of gray.

Performance usually has a price—in this case, lots of desktop space. This is the longest monitor, with a depth of 19.4 inches. Fortunately, the 900NF is well-ventilated on five sides, so you won't have to leave a

19-INCH FLAT-FACE CRTs

large area behind it for airflow.

The user controls are built into a recessed panel that conveniently tilts into and out of view. The six buttons provide intuitive access to a full range of settings,

group, so it squeaks by the others for our Best Buy selection.

For overall text clarity—especially when using small text at high resolutions—we would give the edge to the Samsung SyncMaster 900NF. And for a rock-steady image and rich colors, the honors go to the Mag InnoVision 810FD.



Mag InnoVision 810FD and Samsung SyncMaster 900NF

including adjustments for color purity, corner distortion, and the number of seconds the menus will be displayed. You can lock in the controls so they won't be inadvertently changed. By default, any adjustments are automatically saved if the buttons are inactive for more than 3 seconds.

Other features include a set of BNC video-input connectors (in addition to the standard VGA connector), an optional USB-hub kit, a three-year parts-and-labor warranty, and a one-year replacement warranty. With its excellent image quality and thoughtful controls, this monitor would be a worthwhile match for almost any system.

THE EYES HAVE IT

While we have favored Sony Trinitron tubes in the past, we were pleasantly surprised to find that Hitachi and Mitsubishi CRTs have caught up in overall image quality. For fine graphic detail at full resolution, we would choose the Hitachi CM771. It is also the least expensive unit and the only short-neck monitor of the

The weight you should give to various features depends on how you'll use your monitor. The CTX PR960F is the only one of the six monitors here that provides USB desktop control and a USB hub at no additional charge. The Hitachi has the shortest depth (17.7 inches), and the Samsung has the longest (19.4 inches); these may be important factors if your desk is small. And only the Mag InnoVision lets you extend the warranty for an additional two years beyond the usual three-year warranty (although it will cost you \$94.95 extra).

Still, given the negligible differences among the models, we can safely recommend any of them. ▼

ZDNet Price It!™		code
Acer P911		33771
ADI MicroScan G910		33772
CTX PR960F		33773
Hitachi CM771		33774
Mag InnoVision 810FD		33775
Samsung SyncMaster 900NF		33776
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< PRODUCT SUMMARY >

RATED 1 TO 5 STARS	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
PRODUCT	Acer P911	ADI MicroScan G910	CTX PR960F	Hitachi CM771	Mag InnoVision 810FD	Samsung SyncMaster 900NF
COMPANY	Acer Peripherals America San Jose, CA 800-733-2237, 408-434-3300 www.acerperipherals.com	ADI Systems San Jose, CA 800-228-0530, 408-944-0100 www.adiusa.com	CTX International City of Industry, CA 800-888-2012, 626-709-1000 www.ctxintl.com	Hitachi America Westwood, MA 800-441-4832, 781-461-8300 www.hitachidisplays.com	Mag InnoVision Irvine, CA 800-827-3998, 949-855-4930 www.maginnovision.com	Samsung Electronics America San Jose, CA 800-726-7864, 408-544-4000 www.samsungmonitor.com
AVERAGE PRICE	\$497	\$470	\$460	\$447	\$499	\$449



SHOPPER'S GUIDE
TO PRINTERS

At Your Service

BY M. DAVID STONE

Inkjets and low-cost lasers make prime printers for small-office and home users.



T

oo often, buying a printer is an afterthought—an extra you barely think about when you plan your computer budget. But printers deserve more consideration. If the printed page is where your final output winds up, the printer you choose determines how you and the world at large see your work. So shop with care, and use the guidelines and pointers here to steer you through the decisions ahead.

If you're in the market for a small-office printer, or one to go on (or under or beside) your desk, you're shopping for what we'll call a personal printer. A personal printer should be suitable for most common printing tasks, which means an inkjet or a laser printer. You can also consider LCD or LED printers. These printers work similarly to lasers, and most people call them lasers, a convention we'll follow here.

Typically, a personal printer handles *letter-size* or *letter-* and legal-size paper, but it may handle tabloid-size paper as

well. It usually has modest paper-handling features, with an input-tray capacity of 100 sheets or fewer.

Home users, or office users looking to supplement network printers with printers on their own desks, can expect to spend up to about \$500. For small- or home-office users and serious power users, that limit might stretch to \$1,200 or so for a low-end color laser. These price ceilings are elastic and obviously depend on your budget. But if you go much higher, you'll be out of personal-printer territory.

FOCUSING YOUR SEARCH

The first decision you should make is whether you need color. If you do, you can ignore monochrome lasers. If you don't need color, however,

you're probably better off with a monochrome laser, at a price ranging from a little less than \$200 to about \$500.

There are two key advantages monochrome lasers have over inkjets: They print faster, and they give you better-looking text and line drawings. It's important to understand that not only do laser printers claim faster speeds than comparably priced inkjets, but that the difference in speed is bigger than you would expect from these claims.

Even the least expensive laser printers, such as Oki's OkiPage 6w, which is available for less than \$200, claim 6 pages per minute (ppm), and you can find 12-ppm laser printers, such as the OkiPage 12i, for less than \$500. Relatively few inkjets claim speeds of 6 ppm or faster. More important, almost all lasers print high-quality text documents at close to their claimed speed. Inkjets don't.

With inkjet printers, the claimed speeds you're most likely to see in ads are based on a draft mode rather than a high-quality mode. And there's a big difference when you shift modes. The HP 2000C series inkjets, for example, claim 12 ppm for monochrome draft mode, 8 ppm for normal quality, and 5 ppm for best mode—and the claim drops to 2 ppm for best mode in color. Note, too, that the claimed speeds for inkjets tend to be overstated even for the fastest mode—much more so than with lasers.

Laser printers also win the text- and line-quality contest, since virtually any laser will print better-formed characters for text and

SHOPPER'S GUIDE TO PRINTERS

better-formed lines in line drawings than any inkjet printer—even if the inkjet has a higher resolution. Unlike toner, ink tends to spread when it hits paper. This creates a



Prices for inkjets range broadly, starting well below \$100 for units such as the Lexmark Z12 Color Jetprinter (right), hitting the mid-tier with printers such as the Epson Stylus Color 900 (\$200 to \$300, left), and topping out with high-end models that sell for around \$500.

more ragged edge and ultimately text that's less crisp and harder to read.

The difference in quality between lasers and most inkjets is relatively minor for 10- or 12-point text, but the inkjet version will often look fuzzier. For small fonts of under 8 points or large fonts of over 14 points, the difference becomes more obvious, even affecting readability for small fonts. If text quality is critical—for professional-looking reports, for example, or for newsletters, contracts, or other documents that need varying-size fonts, a laser printer is the better choice. A few inkjet printers can produce truly laser-quality text, but only by slowing down to speeds at which you won't enjoy printing.

COLOR CONSIDERATIONS

If you need color output, the obvious choice is an inkjet, as it's the only low-cost option that will let you print both text documents and color output. The prices for personal inkjets range from \$60 up to about \$500.

Choose the right inkjet, and you can have a mix of acceptable text, high-quality color graphics, and photo-quality photo output. As you would expect, the more expensive inkjets, at \$300 and up, tend to offer high-quality output. But even inexpensive

choices such as the Canon 5100, which is widely available for less than \$130, can do a credible job on most kinds of output, offering true photo quality for photos printed on glossy photo paper. More expensive inkjets tend to have a leg up in terms of faster speed, rather than better print quality.

Be aware that the least expensive inkjets are three-color printers, which means you have to swap cartridges to switch between monochrome and color printing. Aside from being a chore, this creates a problem if you want to mix text and color graphics on the same page. It's best to avoid three-color printers.

If you need the high-quality text you can get only from a laser printer, but also need color, you're probably in the small-office/home-office or power-user category. If so, you may find it

worthwhile to get a color laser printer. The least expensive current models at this writing generally cost less than \$1,500 for a fully equipped printer. That makes them pricey to count as personal printers. However, it's easy to find older models—both discontinued and factory-refurbished—for \$1,000 to \$1,200, sometimes less.

If you're considering an inexpensive color laser, make sure you know what you're getting. Find out if the printer is new or refurbished, and check that it has enough memory. In general, extra memory

Total Cost of Printing =

The initial price you pay for a printer is only one part of the total cost of ownership.



Initial cost of printer +

- Inkjets: \$60 to \$500
- Monochrome Lasers: \$170 to \$500
- Color Lasers: \$900 to \$1,200

ILLUSTRATIONS BY MATT FOSTER

will give you faster printing, a higher resolution, or both. And note that one way vendors hold down costs on the base version of a color laser is to provide just enough memory to print at a low resolution—say, 300 dots per inch (dpi). Find out what difference additional memory will make for any given printer. Also, ask if the printer uses a standard memory module. If it does, you may be able to buy the memory for less elsewhere. Memory is not usually an issue for inkjets, since most do all their processing on the computer, using the computer's memory.

IMAGE QUALITY

One of the most important issues to keep in mind when buying a printer is that output quality for one kind of print job tells you nothing about how well the unit handles another kind. For example, as a group, laser printers offer the best-looking text because crisp, clean edges are the most important factor for text-output quality. But even though crisp edges will also improve the look of a line drawing, good text quality doesn't tell you anything about how well the printer will fill in a solid with black, gray, or a color. It also is no indication of how well it will handle a gradient that shades from one color to another.

For some rules of thumb about what kinds of printers do the best job with each type of output, take a look at the sidebar "Surveying the Output." But keep in mind

SHOPPER'S GUIDE TO PRINTERS

that there are large differences from one printer to the next within each category. One inkjet, for example, may produce photos that are merely passable. Another may offer true photo quality.

Note, too, that there is much more to image quality than resolution. As already mentioned, lasers have an advantage over

For photos and graphics with gradients, they can make up for a lower resolution with more sophisticated dithering schemes. Dithering is the technique of mixing different color dots on the page to produce the illusion of gray for monochrome printers and of more than four colors for four-color printers.

Alternatively, printers can add more ink colors to give them a wider range, which is why six- and seven-color printers typically produce better-looking photos than four-color printers. Or they can print each color dot in different sizes or intensities, instead of just full on and full off.

Alas, it's almost impossible to find out what most personal printers offer for resolution-enhancement techniques. Worse, vendors have muddied the waters by claiming, for example, 600-dpi "quality." You can bet that "600-dpi quality" means it's a 300-dpi printer. But there's no way to know whether it offers edge enhancement to raise text quality to the equivalent of 600 dpi,

other enhancements to raise the quality for photos and graphics to the equivalent of 600 dpi, or both. As a result, claims such as this are all but meaningless.

Ultimately, the best advice is to ignore the specifications and trust your eyes. Ideally, you should try to print some sample output before buying a printer. Failing that, make sure you can return it—without a

restocking fee—if it doesn't live up to your expectations.

READY, SET, PRINT

Regardless of what type of printer you settle on, you'll have some other issues to consider. High on the list is whether you want the printer as part of a multifunction device. If you need a scanner or a fax machine as well as a printer, getting a multifunction device will cost less than buying each piece separately, and your unit will con-



Depending on your paper-handling, speed, and print-quality needs, you may be able to spend under \$200 for a monochrome laser such as the Oki Page 6w (right). Even more robust and capable models, such as those in the HP LaserJet 1100 series (left), sell for \$300 to \$400.

inkjets for output quality because ink is absorbed by paper; toner isn't. More important, any given printer can improve the quality of its output through any of several techniques.

For text and line graphics, printers can make up for a lower resolution with an edge-enhancement feature that makes edges crisper than the resolution would suggest.

Ink cost per page	+ Paper cost per page	+ Electricity	+ Intangibles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ink cartridges print few pages and cost more per page: 2 to 3 cents for monochrome text. Toner cartridges print more pages and cost less per page: 1 to 2 cents for monochrome text. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copier paper at half a cent and transparencies at 50 cents to \$1.25 are the same for inkjets and lasers. Special inkjet paper is expensive, at 1 to 10 cents for premium, 14 to 60 cents for photo, and 70 cents to \$1.12 for glossy photo paper. Premium laser paper costs only 1 to 4 cents per page. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inkjets use significantly less electricity than lasers, which means lower electricity bills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intangibles include things like waiting for the printer to finish, or having to reload toner or paper often. The question here: How much is your time worth?



When nothing short of a color laser will do, end-of-life and refurbished models can keep you from busting your budget. In stripped-down form, models such as the Minolta-QMS magicolor 2 DeskLaser sell for around \$1,000.

sume less space. However, a multifunction device usually forces you to compromise on one or more functions, and if it breaks down,

SHOPPER'S GUIDE TO PRINTERS

you lose all the functions at the same time.

Decide, too, how you want to connect the printer. Many give you a choice between a parallel port and a USB connector, but some have only one or the other. Make sure you have an available port on your computer to match the port on the printer. Have the right cable, too. In particular, be aware that different kinds of parallel cables exist. Ordering a cable along with the printer will not only ensure that you get the right type, but it will save you an extra shipping fee.

Printer language may not be an issue. If you don't need to exchange files with anyone, and you use an operating system such as Windows that uses one driver for all pro-

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grams, you don't have to worry about printer language. Just make sure the printer comes with a driver for your operating system. If you need to exchange files, be aware that only PostScript guarantees the layout will stay the same when you print the file on another printer—assuming, of course, that you also have a PostScript printer on the other computer.

Don't overlook issues such as paper-handling options. Remember, a personal printer may hold 100 sheets or fewer. If you do a lot of printing, you'd probably prefer a 250-sheet tray. Also consider whether you'll need to print on heavyweight stock such as brochures for business use or greeting cards for personal use. Make sure the printer can handle special media, including transparencies, if you'll need to print on them.

Finally, before buying, check return, service, and support policies. Most printers come with a one-year warranty, but you'll want to know the particular warranty period for any printer you're considering. Also, find out who pays for shipping if you have to return the printer. And be sure to check whether you can return the unit if it works, but you decide you don't like it.

Many, if not most, vendors will not take back a working printer if you've opened the ink or toner cartridges. So when you check return policies, be sure to check them specifically as they apply to printers. And if the dealer won't take back the printer, find out if the manufacturer will. Invest the time to pick the right model, and you'll be happily printing with it long after your current computer is obsolete. ▼

Surveying the Output

This chart will help you pick the type of printer you need based on the type of print jobs you do most.

PRINTING PHOTOS

Inkjets



The best inkjets offer true photo quality.

Monochrome Lasers



Monochrome lasers are limited to gray-scale output.

Color Lasers



The best color lasers yield near photo quality.

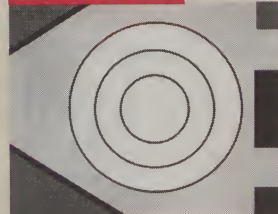
PRINTING LINE-BASED GRAPHICS

Inkjets



Inkjets tend to print lines and shapes with less-than-crisp edges.

Monochrome Lasers



Monochrome lasers usually offer crisp, clean edges for lines and solid objects. They may or may not fill solid areas evenly.

Color Lasers



Color lasers usually offer crisp, clean edges for lines and solid objects. They may or may not fill solid areas evenly.

PRINTING TEXT

Inkjets

This is 10 point Arial
This is 8 point Arial
This is 6 point Arial
This is 4 point Arial

This is 10 point Times Nev
This is 8 point Times New Roma
This is 6 point Times New Roman

Inkjets tend to print text with less crisp edges. Smaller font sizes are harder to read compared with the same text printed on a laser with the same resolution.

Monochrome Lasers

This is 10 point Arial
This is 8 point Arial
This is 6 point Arial
This is 4 point Arial

This is 10 point Times Nev
This is 8 point Times New Roma
This is 6 point Times New Roman

Lasers tend to print text with crisper edges. Smaller font sizes are easier to read compared with the same text printed on an inkjet with the same resolution.

Color Lasers

This is 10 point Arial
This is 8 point Arial
This is 6 point Arial
This is 4 point Arial

This is 10 point Times Nev
This is 8 point Times New Roma
This is 6 point Times New Roman

Lasers tend to print text with crisper edges. Smaller font sizes are easier to read compared with the same text printed on an inkjet with the same resolution.

Technology for Optimum Compactness Hyundai DeluxScan



DeluxScan F790
(17inch flat faced monitor)

DeluxScan V770
(17inch conventional monitor)

For a tree, proper pruning and trimming not only makes it look good but also makes it stronger. In a sense, a computer monitor is the same. Hyundai's DeluxScan is a high quality compact design built around the concept of eliminating unnecessary parts and concentrating on what is really important. Thanks to our concentrated skill, Hyundai has even made DeluxScan's price compact. Isn't it time to make your life more compact?



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**PERSONAL
FIREWALLS**

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by
SHELDON LEEMON



Consumer firewall products help defend PCs from Internet dangers.

Many people think that only big corporations need to worry about Internet security. The truth is, however, that cyber-rogues are just as interested in breaking into the millions of Net-connected home computers. Personal computers may contain valuable information such as bank-account, social-security, and credit-card numbers that crooks can use to steal both money and identities. As we learned from the rash of denial-of-service attacks early this year, hackers are also looking for

computers they can use to attack other computer systems.

Home computers make tempting targets, because few casual Internet users are aware of the threat posed by unwelcome visitors. Even if they are aware, home users don't have the resources to install the complex and expensive firewall systems found on corporate servers. To address this vulnerable market, software developers are marketing a new breed of personal firewall software that is both inexpensive and easy to use.

The four personal firewall programs reviewed here all provide a substantial measure of protection against intrusion for a modest price. Any of these programs will substantially reduce your risk of being victimized by an intruder's attack, so choose the one that best addresses your needs.

Those looking to identify intruders and possibly pursue action against them should seriously consider BlackICE Defender. If you're more comfortable using a time-tested firewall system with minimal user settings, then you'll be interested in what McAfee.com

ILLUSTRATIONS BY MATT FOSTER

Personal Firewall has to offer. If price is a priority, but you don't want to sacrifice quality, ZoneLabs' ZoneAlarm is your best bet. And those who want it all should check out Symantec's Norton Personal Firewall.

BLACKICE DEFENDER ★★★★★

PROS: Targets hundreds of known attacks; unobtrusive and easy to use

CONS: Doesn't block outgoing traffic; tends to tag normal communications as attacks

Network ICE Corp.'s BlackICE Defender is designed to be a next-generation dynamic firewall. In addition to using a traditional firewall component that relies on a fixed set of criteria to decide which traffic to block or pass, BlackICE includes a smart intrusion-detection system that scans incoming traffic for suspicious activity. When it spots an unusual pattern, it logs and analyzes the pattern to see if it matches any known intrusion profiles. (The current version includes more than 400 of these.) If the pattern matches, the program blacklists the sender—refusing its transmissions and effectively putting an end to the attack.

The benefit of BlackICE's approach is that after you set up the program, you can, for the most part, forget about it. Because the program targets only communications that fit an intruder profile, it runs quietly in the background. For example, it was the only program we tested that allowed us to share an Internet connection across a LAN without any special tweaking. In fact, the program is so unobtrusive, it can even work with other firewall software in place, allowing you to use BlackICE to supplement other security programs. And it produces no noticeable impact on the response time of programs relying on heavy Internet traffic, such as online games.

BlackICE has four security levels: Trusting, Cautious, Nervous, and Paranoid. The more stringent the setting, the more incoming ports it protects. You can also manually adjust the list of IP addresses to trust or to block, and you can disable or enable Internet file sharing. Though this approach makes setting up the software simple, the program lacks some of the flexibility of more traditional rule-based firewalls. And it does not permit traffic filtering on a per-application basis.

The program places great emphasis on documenting suspicious events. When a possible intrusion is detected, the program uses back-tracing techniques to provide as much information about the intruder as possible, and stores the raw data sent by the intruder in an evidence file. It sorts and displays intrusion information by attack or intruder, and even provides a graph of intruder activity.

BlackICE Defender works well as a pri-

mary firewall or as an intrusion specialist working in conjunction with other firewall software. Because its strength is the ability to recognize many different types of attacks, however, it's best to update the program frequently. Updates are free for a year, with an annual fee thereafter.

MCAFFEE.COM PERSONAL FIREWALL ★★★★★

PROS: Based on proven firewall technology; little user intervention required

CONS: Few user settings; highly technical terminology used throughout

McAfee.com Personal Firewall is based on ConSeal Private Desktop, Signal 9 Solutions' internationally certified personal firewall package that McAfee acquired earlier this year. The program insulates users from

esoteric protocols. We had to brave these settings to set permission for our LAN to function, because by default McAfee disables file sharing and non-IP protocols.

The program's policy of permitting traffic on a per-application basis provides a good measure of security, since the program doesn't respond at all to unknown or non-trusted communications. It is, however, short on flexibility. For example, this is the only program we tested that does not allow you to list specific IP addresses to trust or block. It also won't permit Network Address Translation programs such as Windows 98's Internet Connection Sharing to share an Internet connection over a LAN.

Though the current version is almost

DANGER ZONES

Wondering why anybody would want to break into your home computer? Here's a list of nefarious things intruders might do:

- Lift sensitive information and use your identity. If they gain access to your hard drive, they may steal passwords, credit-card numbers, and your social-security number.
- Change or delete files on your hard drive. If they delete enough files, they could disable your computer completely.
- Plant a Trojan horse program that allows the intruder to operate your computer by remote control. This opens the door to all sorts of mischief. For example, if you have a microphone attached to your computer, the intruder could run your computer's voice-recorder program, then download the resulting file to eavesdrop on you!
- Plant a Trojan-horse server program that allows them to carry out attacks on commercial systems using your computer. When the victim investigates, your computer will appear to be the source of the attack.
- Deny you access to the Internet. Readily available denial-of-service attacks are designed to overload your computer with incoming traffic or disconnect it from the Internet entirely.

the inner workings of its firewall by automatically building rules based on your Internet applications. When you start a program that requires Internet access, McAfee pops up a window that asks if the program is allowed to communicate. Answer in the affirmative, and the firewall passes any communication that was initiated by that application.

The program offers few user settings, and it spends most of its time minimized in your system tray. If you restore the user interface window, you'll see a setting that allows you to temporarily permit or block all traffic, and a display that shows the details of application traffic and unknown traffic—not very helpful unless you speak fluent packet. A menu brings up some system settings you can change, but the average user will find them cryptic, because they explain how to handle

identical to ConSeal Private Desktop, you can expect McAfee to make some improvements in the near future. The company plans to integrate the application with Guard Dog (the parental-control, ad-blocking, and privacy-management program the company acquired from CyberMedia) to create a suite of programs similar to Norton Internet Security 2000. In its current form, however, there isn't much to distinguish the program's features from those of ZoneAlarm, which has the added benefit of being free.

NORTON PERSONAL FIREWALL ★★★★★

PROS: Firewall rule editing provides maximum flexibility; includes extras such as privacy protection

CONS: Requires some network knowledge to take full advantage of features; most expensive of this group



Symantec Corp.'s Norton Personal Firewall uses a traditional firewall system, which checks each packet of incoming or outgoing network traffic, and uses a series of rules to determine whether to block the packet or allow it to pass. Older examples of this kind of firewall were hard to use, because they required detailed

knowledge of network traffic to create or modify the rules. Norton minimizes the inconvenience by including a large number of prewritten rules that handle most common situations. Norton also includes a Rule Assistant wizard that automatically configures new rules for your application, or can help you create your own rules manually.

Norton offers three security settings. At the default medium setting, traffic is blocked unless a rule permits it. At the minimal setting, all Internet traffic is allowed unless a rule specifically prohibits it. At the high setting, the program often asks you how to deal with traffic such as ActiveX controls and cookies. While these standard settings satisfy the needs of most casual users, the more advanced user still has direct access to the firewall rules, which let you control network connections by direction (incoming or outgoing), protocol (TCP, UDP, or ICMP), port number, or application. The program also maintains detailed event logs, showing connections, firewall activity, Web history, and other events.

In addition to traditional firewall protection, Norton offers privacy protection. These features allow you to control the transmission of sensitive personal information (such as credit-card numbers), as well as information about which Web site you visited last, which browser you use, and your e-mail address. They also allow you to control active content such as scripts, repeating animations, and Java applets or ActiveX controls. The privacy functions have three standard settings: high, medium, and minimal. But as with the firewall settings, you can customize them—to the point of specifying settings on a site-by-site basis.

Although highly effective at the default settings, Norton will be most appreciated by those who want the extra privacy features or the flexibility of creating their own firewall rules. All users will appreciate the Live Up-

PERSONAL FIREWALLS

date feature, which automatically downloads and installs new program code and rule sets over the Internet, making it easy to update the program to deal with new types of intrusions as they are discovered. Updates are free for a year and carry an annual fee thereafter.

ZONEALARM ★★★★★

PROS: Free for personal use; filters both incoming and outgoing traffic

CONS: No telephone tech support; not as full-featured

As with McAfee.com Personal Firewall, Zone Labs' ZoneAlarm operates on the principle of trusted applications. It learns which applications to trust by asking you questions such as "Do you want to allow Windows Explorer to access the Internet?" It can then block all communications not initiated by one of your trusted applications.

ZoneAlarm lets you configure a number of settings for additional flexibility. The program has security-level controls for both local (trusted) communications and external Internet connections. Each of these has three settings. At the high setting, the program enforces application privileges, hides all ports not in use by a program (sometimes called Stealth Mode), and blocks Internet access to file and print sharing. The medium setting enforces application privileges and blocks Internet access to file and print sharing, but leaves your computer and servers visible to the Internet. The low setting simply enforces application privileges. We were able to make ZoneAlarm work with our Internet-sharing software by changing the Internet-security level from the default high setting to medium.

You can add an IP address or a range of addresses to the trusted list, providing higher access levels to computers on your LANs, or to known external computers. You can also modify the access levels for each pro-

gram, deciding whether or not to permit it local or Internet access, and whether to allow the application to act as a server.

When the program blocks a communication, it pops up an alert dialog box with a brief explanation, such as "ZoneAlarm has blocked Internet access to your computer (NetBIOS Name) from 24.240.291.141." A link to the ZoneLabs Web site provides some additional explanation. If you don't want to see these alerts, you can turn off this feature and log the information to a file.

ZoneAlarm also includes an Internet lock that acts like a screen saver, blocking all Internet activity after a specified period of inactivity. The program's newest feature, called MailSafe, alerts you when you receive an e-mail message with a Visual Basic script attachment. Because these often contain dangerous virus or Trojan horse programs, you can choose to delete them without opening them, particularly if they come from a sender you don't know personally.

You can download ZoneAlarm for free at

zdNet Price It!	code
BlackICE Defender	33788
McAfee.com Personal Firewall	33789
Norton Personal Firewall	33790
ZoneAlarm	33791
For real-time pricing, go to priceit.zdnet.com and enter number.	

www.zonelabs.com (though the company charges \$19.95 for business users). Don't let that put you off, however. ZoneAlarm compares quite well to the commercial products in both effectiveness and features.

ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL

Remember that no matter how light your Internet usage is, every time you log on you make yourself a target. Therefore, any level of protection is better than none at all. With that in mind, you should still look for the product that best suits your needs.

McAfee.com Personal Firewall is a good solution for those who want as little to do with running the software as possible. BlackICE Defender employs some excellent technology, but it's best used in conjunction with a more robust package. And ZoneAlarm is a surprisingly powerful package, considering that it doesn't cost a dime. But it's the extra flexibility and strong security measures of Norton Personal Firewall that really make this program the best of the bunch. ▼

< PRODUCT SUMMARY >

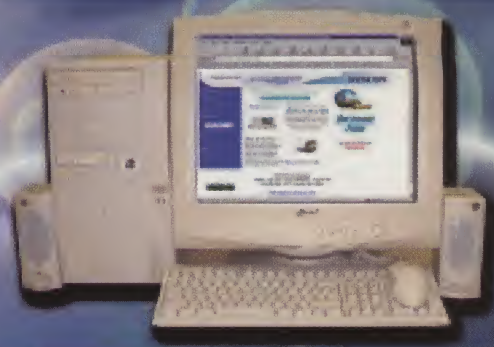
RATED 1 TO 5 STARS	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
PRODUCT	BlackICE Defender	McAfee.com Personal Firewall	Norton Personal Firewall	ZoneAlarm
COMPANY	Network ICE Corp. San Mateo, CA 650-532-4100 www.networkice.com	McAfee.com Corp. Sunnyvale, CA 408-992-8100 www.mcafee.com	Symantec Corp. Cupertino, CA 800-441-7234, 541-334-6054 www.symantec.com	Zone Labs San Francisco, CA 800-210-5517, 415-547-0050 www.zonelabs.com
REQUIRES	Pentium-class processor; 6.5MB hard drive space; Windows 95, 98, 2000, or NT	Pentium-class processor recommended; 8MB hard drive space; Windows 95 with Winsock 2, 98, 2000, or NT 4.0 with Service Pack 4, 5, or 6; Internet Explorer 4.0 or later, or Netscape Navigator (with McAfee-provided plug-in)	Pentium-class processor; 32MB RAM recommended; 10MB hard drive space; Windows 95, 98, 2000, or NT 4.0	Windows 95, 98, 2000, or NT
PRICE	\$39.95 direct (updates are free for one year, \$19.95 per year thereafter)	\$39.95 list (includes one year of updates)	\$49.95 list (updates are free for one year, \$3.95 per year thereafter)	Free download for personal use; \$19.95 for business users

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SYSTEMS
FOR SENIORS



Computing Comes of Age

BY NEIL RANDALL

Today's senior citizens are snapping up PCs fast. Here's how to find the right system without breaking the nest egg.

K

ate Nicholson grudgingly admits that she's "just a shade under 75," but says she feels better now—and certainly better connected—than when she was "a carefree youth" in her mid-60s. The reason? Nicholson, like many senior citizens today, uses a mouse and keyboard to keep in touch with her children, grandchildren, and the world in general. "The phone doesn't ring much, but e-mail comes in almost every day," she says. "I haven't heard from my kids this much in years."

Nicholson has even impressed her family by scouring the Web for information on confounding, urgent topics like colic. Recently she dredged up information on the malady and, thanks to her efforts, her granddaughter "was finally able to get some sleep."

SYSTEMS
FOR SENIORS

And that made her one proud, wired Grandma. It may be surprising to some, but the number of PC users aged 65 and over is quite large. And it's growing fast, according to Agelight, a consulting firm focusing on technology and generational marketing. The company says 23 percent of individuals aged 60 to 69 already own a computer. Those figures are sure to soar as baby boomers gray.

SENIOR NETIZENS

Like Nicholson, most seniors use PCs to access the Internet. According to Jupiter Communications, a research firm that specializes in technology, 22 percent of adults over age 50 are online. And they're spending a significant amount of time in the ether. A recent survey by the nonprofit organization SeniorNet found that, among computer users aged 50 and older, 70 percent are online for as much as 20 hours per week, and that more than 30 percent spend even more time online.

The vast majority of these cyber seniors take to the Net because they've found e-mail to be the best way to stay in touch with far-flung family and friends. In fact, up to 94 percent of older adults say it's their primary online activity, according to Forrester Research, the Internet research firm. Wired retirees also spend a good amount of time surfing the Web—they're big on entertainment and research—as well as participating in discussion groups.

Online shopping has made some surprising inroads among older Americans. A full 92 percent of computer owners over the age of 55 have shopped on the Internet, according to AgeLight, and 78 percent have made at least one online purchase. Shopping from home is especially appealing to the more elderly who may have trouble getting around.

It's clear that the PC has potential to play a more significant role in the lives of

seniors than it already does, with online communities, medical and lifestyle information, formal or self-directed education, hobbies, shopping, and other activities ripe for pursuit.

"As they grow more comfortable with their PC, most seniors begin to explore its possibilities," says Stacy Elliott, Microsoft Corp's consumer technology advocate. "My mother, for instance, uses desktop publishing software to make labels for the vegetables that she grows and cans in her backyard."

But first they must tackle the basics. Because many of today's seniors were already well along in their lives when the personal computer revolution began, they may be totally unfamiliar with the ground rules of computers and the computing experience. The concept of a cursor, for instance, can be confusing to those who have never had to chase one around a screen. For the uninitiated, therefore, buying a system and getting online can be daunting. So it's imperative that



PHOTOGRAPH BY BILL MILNE

the computer be a breeze to set up and use, and pack the power necessary to render the experience enjoyable rather than frustrating.

Also keep in mind that age can affect the experience of using a computer as much as expertise. The deterioration of eyesight and medical conditions like arthritis can contribute to a computing

SYSTEMS FOR SENIORS

experience that's much different from that of most people in their 20s and 30s. Accordingly, careful selection of monitors, keyboards, pointing devices, and furniture is essential.

Not Quite a PC

Montana's Gallatin Valley is a mighty long way from Silicon Valley, but that hasn't halted the advance of technology. Just ask 91-year-old Anna Mae Hanks, who is taking advantage of a new breed of easy-to-use computers called Web appliances to keep in touch and snoop around the Internet.

Hanks has been using Netpliance's i-opener device for the past nine months, primarily for sending e-mail "letters" to family and friends. She says the system, though not a full-fledged PC, provides just about all the functionality she needs. But Hanks, who had never used a computer before, admits that tackling the i-opener was challenging at first.

"I'm not accustomed to such modern gadgets, and it's a little difficult for me to remember things, so I have to learn things all over again," she says. "But it's worth it, because keeping in touch with my grandchildren and friends is a delightful thing to do."

The i-opener costs \$399, plus \$21.95 a month for Internet access. It's a slick-looking, compact system with a 10-inch flat-panel screen, a keyboard with a built-in trackball pointing device, and a 56Kbps modem for accessing the Internet.

Unlike a PC, it has no hard drive or CD-ROM drive, limiting its functionality. But the i-opener is engineered to make getting online about as easy as plugging in a toaster.

Hanks says her daughter Mardeen "sets it up" when she wants to send messages or look at Web sites. While the nonagenarian admits that she's not the world's most avid Web hound, she says she has hunted down online recipes for jams and jellies, and scoured the Internet for antiques. She also receives photos by e-mail.

Beyond that, Hanks and her two daughters have built something of a cottage industry by selling, at a minimal Web site, handcrafted "rag rugs," as well as CDs of classic cowboy songs that the daughters recorded as a band called SaddleBags. Although the Web site is not e-commerce-enabled, Hanks says a number of people have ordered rugs and CDs after sidling up to www.saddlebagstheband.com.

—Rik Fairlie

START YOUR SHOPPING CARTS

Whether you're a septuagenarian splurging on a PC for yourself or a 30-something buying one for your parent or grandparent, the trick is to know exactly what you need and what you don't.

Those who plan to use the computer for little besides e-mail shouldn't worry about breaking the nest egg on a state-of-the-art system. The same goes for browsing the Web: Almost any machine running Windows 98 will be fine. On the other hand, spend as little as possible, and you could end up with a clunker that's already out of date, rendering much of what makes computers interesting and exciting totally unattainable. If you've decided to spend retirement firing your way through eye-popping 3D shoot-'em-ups, you'll need to spend plenty of money, because these games require ample computing firepower.

An even easier way to access the Web is with an Internet appliance. (See the sidebar "Not Quite a PC.") Essentially just stripped-down computers, these devices plug right into your phone line and let you easily

read e-mail and surf the Web.

Once they've got the basics down, many seniors may want to add peripherals such as printers, scanners, digital cameras, and even joysticks. For ease of use, be certain to go with add-ons that employ the Universal Serial Bus (USB) connector. Most new PCs have from two to five USB ports to accommodate added equipment; should you need more, a USB hub enables you to add up to seven additional ports.

Before you start your shopping cart, consider the following guidelines:

THE ENGINE

The processor powers the computer, working in tandem with random access memory (RAM) and other components. The processor and RAM often take top billing in ads and are among the most important information to consider when shopping. Processor speed is typically measured in megahertz (MHz), and RAM is referred to

in megabytes (MB). In general, the higher the numbers, the faster the performance.

If you plan to use the PC primarily for e-mail and Web browsing, you won't need a processor whose speed exceeds 500MHz. So if someone tries to sell you a top-flight 1GHz Pentium III or Athlon system, just say no. Instead, opt for a system that runs on Intel's Celeron or AMD's Duron processor.

As for RAM, Windows 98 works best with 64MB, although we recommend 128MB. Don't bother going higher unless you have a specific reason, such as extensive graphics editing. Nor should you settle for a system with only 32MB of RAM, unless you'll only be using the system for e-mail or Web browsing.

DRIVES

As large graphics and audio files become more commonplace, you'll find you need ample storage. It's important to select a system with a roomy hard drive, especially if you intend to use your computer in conjunction with a digital camera or for playing games. We recommend at least 10GB of storage space, although 20GB shows some real planning for the future.

Practically all software ships on CD-ROM discs, and the vast majority of systems include a CD-ROM drive. You'll also want a CD-ROM drive for playing games and listening to audio CDs.

Go for a DVD-ROM drive only if you want to watch DVD movies on your PC (it's not as enticing as it sounds) or if the computer has a connector that enables you to play the DVD movie on your TV set. If you're happy with your VCR, decline the DVD.

MONITOR

The monitor is a make-or-break component. We recommend one that's large enough to give you a good view (15 inches is okay, but 17 inches is preferable) and provides crisp, sharp text and graphics. Don't opt for the cheapest monitor to save a few bucks; sacrifice something else instead. And note that when setting up the monitor, adjust the screen resolution to 800x600 for a nice, readable size. A higher screen resolution will result in smaller text and icons, which could strain the eyes. Also be sure to set the refresh rate as high as possible to avoid flicker and eye fatigue.

OPERATING SYSTEM

The operating system, or OS, is the basic underlying software that runs the computer. Windows 98 is the standard consumer operating system and is preinstalled on most new PCs. Soon computers

will ship with Windows Millennium Edition (ME), the follow-on to Windows 98 that should be even more user-friendly.

Note that you don't need Windows 2000, which is designed for business users and often doesn't fully support add-ons like printers and scanners. As for the much-touted Linux, it's a great operating system—if you're a geek. For the rest of us, it can be difficult to set up and may not be compatible with many add-on devices.

Our advice: Stick with Windows 98 until Windows ME is released.

KEYBOARD

The only decision to make on the keyboard is whether to opt for an ergonomic keyboard or a standard model. Ergonomic ones split the keyboard in half and angle the rows of keys upward, maintaining the natural angle that your arms form when typing. This is an important consideration for anyone with wrist-based repetitive stress problems, although it can make hunt-and-peck typing a challenge.

SYSTEMS FOR SENIORS

POINTING DEVICES

You maneuver Windows programs by moving a pointer to an icon and clicking on it. The most common device for accomplishing this is the mouse, and many styles are available. We recommend a mouse with a scroll wheel, which makes it easier to page through documents on the screen. If you have trouble with arm and wrist movement, consider a trackball instead of a mouse. These devices sit stationary on your desk, enabling you to push the cursor around the screen with much less hand and wrist movement.

PRINTERS

The basic choice these days is between a color inkjet or a monochrome laser printer. Laser printers are typically more expensive than decent color inkjets, and necessary only if you print a lot of text-only docu-

ments. Inexpensive lasers, such as the \$368 Lexmark Optra E310, only print in black; you'll want a color inkjet if you plan to work with graphics and images. You can get a pretty respectable color inkjet for under \$100. Epson's \$89 Stylus Color 670, for instance, delivers a winning combination of speed, quality, and price.

SCANNERS AND DIGITAL CAMERAS

Scanners and digital cameras let you import images into your computer. You'll want one of these if you intend to branch out into creative work like designing greeting cards, compiling online photo albums, and e-mailing pictures. While scanners are inexpensive these days, the price of digital cameras is still a bit high, but dropping almost weekly.

The image quality is determined largely by the resolution rating of the scanner or camera. Scanners are rated in dpi (dots per inch), while cameras are rated in pixels. In each case, the higher the better. But note

Keeping It Simple

Gateway and Compaq Computer Corp. want to make computing easy for the uninitiated, no matter what their age. The two companies have wrapped traditional PCs in fresh designs, resulting in packages that are easy to use and just as easy on the eyes. While they don't target seniors specifically, these systems strike a perfect balance of components, price, and ease of use.

Their chassis are smaller and more attractive than those of typical PCs, and everything is included in the case. All you have to do is take it out of the box, plug it in, and turn it on. These units make full use of the USB port, simplifying the addition of components.

Gateway serves this market with its **Astro**, an all-in-one unit that combines a monitor and other components into one chassis. Pricing starts at \$799 for a 400MHz Celeron, 64MB of RAM, a 15-inch monitor, a modem, and a CD-ROM drive, and you can customize your order at the Gateway Web site for a more powerful PC.

Compaq's entry into this field is the **Presario EZ2000** series, a line of stylish PCs that are easy to use and clad in a cool retro chassis. The EZ2000 offers a number of fea-

tures for novices, including a Digital Dashboard that alerts you when e-mail is pending, six USB ports for easy expansion, and a chassis that simplifies upgrades.

Starting at \$699, the EZ2200 is outfitted

with a 500MHz Celeron processor, 64MB of RAM, a 17GB hard drive, a 40x CD-ROM drive, a CD-RW drive, and a 56Kbps modem. No monitor is included. Upgrading to the \$799 EZ2600 will net you a 633MHz Celeron and a 20GB hard drive,



Compaq EZ2000 series



Gateway Astro



Apple iMac

although you'll lose the CD-ROM drive (and, again, the monitor is additional).

The granddaddy of these systems is Apple's much-publicized and highly popular **iMac**. Starting at \$999, all iMac models have a built-in modem, a network adapter, and two USB ports. The iMac is extremely easy to set up and ships in a variety of colors, all of which are guaranteed to clash with practically all the walls and furniture in your house. Its downside is that it's a Macintosh, and most new products (both software and hardware) are designed first for the PC market.

—N.R.

that if you're simply e-mailing a picture to your family and friends, models with lower resolutions are more than ample. If you're a photography buff, however, you'll want to spend more for higher resolutions and sharper images.

There are two types of cameras. A digital camera that takes still photos is more expensive, priced from \$200 to more than \$1,000. Many models have the same point-and-shoot appeal of traditional film cameras, yet enable you to snap photos without using film, then shuffle the images to your computer hard drive. Less expensive is the digital video camera, or PC cam, which lets you record low-resolution video. These units typically sit on top of the monitor and record sound as well as video, creating compressed files that will not chew up your entire hard drive (as a high-quality video sequence would).

The Umax Astra 3400 is an excellent scanner for users of all levels. It delivers an easy-to-use interface and quick scans for just \$99. And the \$129 IBM/Xirlink PC Camera Pro Max is a great option for those who want a PC cam. For those who are ready to make the jump to higher-resolution digital photography, the Nikon Coolpix 800 is an outstanding camera. For \$500, you get a light body and great-looking images with resolutions as high as 2 megapixels (or 2 million dots).

LAPTOPS Laptops (also called notebooks) are small, all-in-one computers that are extremely useful if you move around a lot. But we don't recommend them as a main computer for two reasons. First, they're more expensive than desktop machines. You'll pay up to twice as much for comparable features and power. Second, the screen and keyboard are almost always smaller than those of desktops, which could be a problem for many seniors. Laptops also tend to be a bit more finicky than desktops and are more expensive to repair should they break.

SYSTEMS FOR SENIORS

SERVICE AND SUPPORT

Service and support can sometimes be the most important consideration when buying a PC, particularly for novices. Look for a warranty that lasts three years rather than one. And make sure there are multiple ways to contact the support staff; a good company should offer phone and fax

service numbers, as well as e-mail and Web-based support. You might even want to consider purchasing a service plan from an outside company to supplement the equipment's original warranty, especially if you're buying a used machine. Check out the service plans offered by companies such as PCsupport.com and Expertcity.com.

USED EQUIPMENT

Many seniors' first computers are used, an older model that is passed down from their kids who are upgrading systems. Sure, the price is right, but unless the son or daughter is also willing to provide technical help (regularly), it's not a good idea. New computers are accompanied by warranties and professional technical support, and are equipped to handle the latest software and hardware.

Cyber Sites For Seniors

AgeNet (www.agenet.com) delivers information about issues such as medicine, law, and caregiver support.

Go60.com (go60.com) provides senior-specific news and information on computer use, finances, shopping, medicine, and other topics. Its content is nicely presented and highly useful.

LovingCare.net (www.lovingcare.net) provides details on long-term care, housing, travel, and federal assistance, plus a useful page of links to other resources.

SeniorNet (www.seniornet.com) is not just a Web site, but an organization that operates more than 170 learning centers across the United States. The company aims to help older Americans use and access computers, and its site features discussions and information on a variety of issues.

Seniors-Site.com (seniors-site.com) offers message boards on a wide range of topics pertaining to older people, along with classified ads and topic experts you can e-mail.

The Geezer Brigade (www.thegeezerbrigade.com) takes a humorous approach to everything about aging, and includes competitions and news items. The chat room limits its times and topics, making it very useful.

ThirdAge (www.thirdage.com) is a well-designed portal for seniors, with articles and links on topics such as computers, politics, pets, and travel. Activities include games, shopping, and chat.

—N.R.

BUYING POWER

For Kate Nicholson, e-mail was the initial motivator for getting a computer. And while she admits that her children and grandchildren pushed her to make the purchase, she now sees its potential for more than just keeping in touch with the family.

"I finally drummed up the courage to buy something online—a video," says Nicholson. Although she checked her credit-card statement over and over to see if anyone had stolen her personal information, she says her first purchasing experience went well.

"At first I was just afraid," she admits. "I was afraid because of all the terrible stories in the news about stalkers and hate mail and people who steal private information. But I was also afraid because I didn't know how to type, and because reading sometimes gives me headaches."

A good monitor and a patient daughter helped allay her fears and made her more comfortable using her computer. Now Nicholson says she'll be spending a little more time every week exploring the possibilities that her PC presents. ▼

Finding the PC That Fits Your Needs

To choose the right PC, get a clear idea of the tasks you'll need the PC to perform, and the features necessary to successfully complete them. (For a comprehensive selection of PC reviews, go to www.zdnet.com/products/filter/guide/0,7267,1500113,00.html.)

FAMILY

The ideal family system will have enough power and the right features to fulfill your needs for up to two years—without including a budget-busting price tag. A typical system in this category will include a 450MHz to 667MHz Pentium III, 533MHz to 600MHz Celeron, or 600MHz to 700MHz Duron processor; 64MB SDRAM; a 10GB hard drive; and a 17-inch monitor. A family PC should also include the right features for Internet connectivity (a 56K V.90 modem, a 10/100 Ethernet PCI adapter, or a DSL modem for high-speed access) and multimedia (a good graphics card with 16MB memory, a DVD-ROM drive, a Sound Blaster-compatible sound card, a speaker system, and perhaps a CD-RW drive for creating your own CDs). You'll pay anywhere from \$1,000 to \$2,000 for a system in this category.

STUDENT

The majority of students will use their PCs for word processing, e-mail, and Web browsing. For these activities, a budget PC is sufficient. A budget PC typically includes a 466MHz to 600MHz Celeron processor or 600MHz to 700MHz Duron processor, 64MB RAM, a 4.3GB to 10GB hard drive, and a 15- or 17-inch monitor. These systems start at around \$800. But if the student also uses a PC for other activities such as creating Web pages, downloading and listening to MP3 files, or making their own CDs, you'll need to invest in a more powerful and feature-complete system similar to the ones described for Family or even Gaming and Multimedia. The Apple iMac, which starts at about \$1,600, is also a popular choice for students because of its space-saving, portable design. Check with the school to see if

you'll also need 10/100 Ethernet (either integrated on a PCI card, or via a USB adapter) for connecting to a campus network.

GAMING AND MULTIMEDIA

Because of their 3D graphics and sound, computer games really test the limits of desktop PCs. The same is true for digital photography, digital audio, and video editing—all of which are rapidly becoming popular desktop activities. For these tasks, you'll want the fastest, most capable PC you can lay your hands on. Systems in this class have everything: the fastest Pentium III or Athlon processors (up to 1GHz), 128MB to 512MB of system memory, hard drives up to 40GB, and 19-inch monitors. Another critical feature is a high-end graphics board with 64MB of double data rate (DDR) memory. Graphics boards based on nVidia's GeForce 256 and GeForce2 GTS chip set are especially popular in this category. For all this power, you can expect to fork over anywhere from \$2,500 to \$3,500.

SMALL BUSINESS

The typical small-business-oriented desktop PC looks a lot like a family PC, but perhaps without as much emphasis on multimedia features. A typical configuration would include a 450MHz to 667MHz

Pentium III processor, 533MHz to 600MHz Celeron processor, or 600MHz to 700MHz Duron processor; 64MB to 128MB RAM; and a 17- or 19-inch monitor. Most small-business users will also want a 10/100 Ethernet PCI card or a DSL modem for high-speed Internet access. Expect to pay about \$1,200 to \$2,000 for a system in this class. For certain types of small businesses, especially graphic designers, an Apple iMac (350MHz or 400MHz PowerPC) or even an entry-level Power Mac G4 (400MHz PowerPC G4) may also be an attractive option.

MULTIMEDIA PRO

In this category, the fastest possible processor is not as critical as loads of memory, an extremely fast, large hard drive, a FireWire (IEEE 1394) interface for transferring video, and a generous-sized display. All this technology can make a desktop PC for gamers and enthusiasts look like a bargain. Prices typically start around \$3,500, and the sky's the limit. A fully loaded Apple PowerPC G4 with a 19.8-inch diagonal display, for instance, can approach \$7,000.

BUDGET BUYER

Basic features include a 466MHz to 600MHz Celeron processor, 600MHz to 700MHz Duron processor, or AMD K6 processor; 32MB to 64MB memory (we don't recommend anything less than 64MB); and a 4.3GB to 6GB hard drive. Most budget systems come with Microsoft Windows 98 Second Edition—Windows 2000 isn't an option in this price range—and have limited warranties. And don't expect to find DVD-ROM or CD-RW drives as standard equipment on budget systems. These systems range in price from \$800 to \$1,300. ▼



FREE
ISPs



Freedom

Has Its Price

Providers of free Internet access like to present themselves as rebels out to rescue Netizens from the injustice of paying to get online. The fact is they can save you about \$20 a month over fee-based services, but you'll be making a remittance in some other form.

Without your \$20 a month, these services need other revenue sources. Like virtually every other free Internet service, they turn to advertisers. Many offer specific information about members' lifestyles and buying habits so advertisers can target their messages to the right audience. They gather this information from questionnaires you fill out at sign-up and, in most cases, by tracking the sites you visit once you start using the service. Many of the survey questions are mandatory; a missing answer halts the registration process. Information gathered typically includes whether you own or rent and how much money you make. (Hint: They can't subject you to a lie-detector test.)

ILLUSTRATION BY JOSEPH KELTER/BADCAT DESIGN

Free access providers don't want your money—they want your personal info and your screen space. Are you willing to give it up?

By Donna Tapellini

If you have questions about **AIDS**

WebMD

click here

APPLY NOW!

INSTANT APPROVAL

0%
INTRO APR

INSTANT REWARDS

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VISA

Links

BlueLight

Hello Donna.

Search

Best Deals

Surf!

Desktop

amazon

Pro Flowers

Free Photos

FREE INTERNET SERVICE

BlueLight

Big Browser is Watching You!!!

File Edit View Favorites Tools

Back Forward Stop Refresh

Address

Online Gambling Choose your game now !!!

Blackjack Roulette Slot Machines Video Poker

Download

CASINO ON NET

Games review

Careers Shopping Health Sports Money Travel News Weather

JUNO guide

HOME HELP SEARCH E-MAIL CHAT

Please answer the following:

1. Do you rent or own?
☒ Rent ☐ Own

2. What is your salary?
☒ 25K - 45K ☐ 45K - 75K ☐ 75K and above

3. Are you married or single?
☒ Married ☐ Single

4. Where do you shop on the web?

5. What computer equipment do you have?

6. What kind of music do you listen to?

Unloading information... please wait.

Submit

Submit

ZeroPort

Cisco Powered Network

Search Services

Shop

eBay

chipshot.com

golf's new address

Whatever you need for however you play.

Music Autos Weather

winfreestuff.com

click here for your chance

PHONEFREE

Down.

Live Instant

News Maps Shopping Music Horoscope Health

Stocks Travel Auctions Games Movies Classified

Sports Weather Books Chat Calander Yellow Pages

Free Tips for Using Free ISPs

**FREE
ISPs**

1 Ideal Placement

If the banner bar takes up half the width of your screen, the best spot for it is in the lower right corner, just above your application's status bar and to the right of the vertical scroll bar. It won't interfere with any functionality there.

2 AutoHide To Seek Desk Space

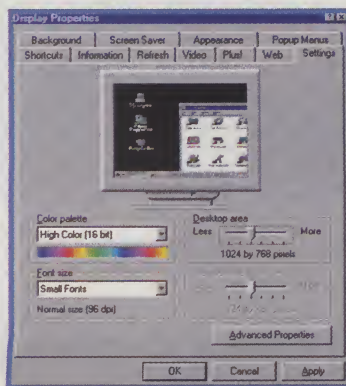
If you AutoHide your taskbar (Start/Settings/Taskbar & Start Menu/Taskbar Options) and dock the banner bar to the bottom of your screen, some services won't let you access your Start menu unless you press your keyboard's Windows key. Worse, you won't be able to move the banner bar at all; once it's docked, it's frozen in place. Other free ISPs don't hinder AutoHide, giving you a tad more workspace. Experiment with the services you test to see their effect on AutoHide.

3 Clear a Few Acres

Well, a few inches may be more accurate. Turn off all the toolbars you can in your browser to gain a little of the viewing space the banner bar takes away. You can also turn off the browser's status bar.

4 Make a New Resolution

Set your monitor to a higher resolution while surfing with a free ISP. The banner bar won't get much smaller, but you'll get about 25 percent more screen space in your applications. To increase the resolution in Windows 98, right-click anywhere on the desktop and select Properties. Click the Settings tab and move the Desktop Area arrow to the right. ▼



How does all this affect your surfing experience? In most cases, you'll contend with a mandatory banner bar with flashing ads that hogs screen space even when you toggle to an offline app. Close the window, and you lose your connection.

Annoying as these banner ads are, they're what keep these free services alive. Indeed, when we began researching this story we started with 10 services. Two—freewww and WorldSpy—offered banner-free surfing, and both have ceased operation. At press time, both services were being taken over by Juno, a service with one of the largest banner ads.

What's more, you may face disconnection after periods of inactivity (a hassle if you're downloading a large file and don't want to babysit your computer) and spotty access speeds.

Still, there's the annual savings of \$240 or more—and that may be enough to outweigh the disadvantages. It is for a growing number of Americans. Last year, 2.5 million users registered with free, ad-supported ISPs, according to Jupiter Communications, and by 2003, that number is projected to exceed 10 million.

We tried out eight of these free services to help you find one or two whose traits you can live with.

The services vary in terms of the size of the banner bars (screen resolution can affect the size of the banner bar; we tested at 800x600 pixels), but with few exceptions, access speeds fell in the 49Kbps range on our 56K modem.

Like their fee-based cousins, most free ISPs start you off at portal sites whose offerings typically include calendars, news, shopping, file storage, chat services, portfolio tracking, and e-mail. Some offer more local access numbers than others. Without a local number, you'll pay for these free services by way of higher phone bills. (For a list of local access numbers by provider, go to www.nzlist.org/user/freesip.)

A few of the services we looked at are powered by the same provider, so you'll notice a similarity among their interfaces. For instance, 1stUp is the technology behind AltaVista's Free Access, Excite's FreeLane, and Fox Network's The Simpsons, while Spinway is behind Address.com and BlueLight.com. The others—Freei, NetZero, and Juno—use proprietary programs.

Of the services we looked at, all but one track your surfing patterns and share the

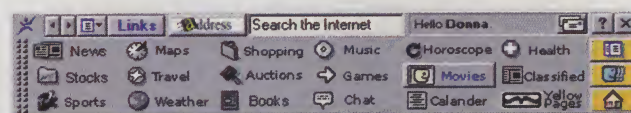
information with third parties. Some users don't care about such things, arguing it enhances their experience to see ads that may interest them. Others consider this an invasion of privacy. All this information is spelled out in the license agreements. They're long and boring, but if you're concerned about privacy issues, read these agreements carefully before you click "I Agree."

In addition to the national ISPs reviewed here, a number of regional and specialty ISPs offer free access. You'll find a list, again, at www.nzlist.org/user/freesip.

ADDRESS.COM

Address.com not only forces you to look at ads, it forces you to look at outdated ones. During testing we viewed an ad for a contest that expired two weeks earlier.

If you click on the Links button on the banner bar you can view links instead of an ad. The links last as long as your cursor remains in that section of the bar. Some links, however, are as antiquated as the ads, or at least misleading. The Travel link was dead, and the Sports link took us to sporting-goods retailers instead of the sports news we expected. Worse yet, Address.com starts you on its home page and keeps you there even if you



Address.com

click on your browser's Home button.

The download process is slightly muddled; the link "Support/Download" sounds like a tech-support program, but it leads to the download you want. Once you launch the setup file, installation takes only a few steps.

Aside from these minor annoyances, Address.com is not a bad service, and its 486x86-pixel (undocked) banner bar shares first place with BlueLight.com as the smallest banner bar. When docked to your taskbar, it grows to 800x60, but offers features such as a search function and an ad library. A service called URL Forwarding lets you use an Address.com URL to send visitors to your real URL, a useful feature if you have a lengthy Web address. At press time, the company planned to revamp its start page, making it more user-friendly, feature-rich, and customizable, and offering a build-your-own-Web-page feature. The relaunched site should be available by the time you read this.

Like many free ISPs, Address.com tracks your surfing habits for ad-targeting purposes. But specific customer information isn't available to Address.com or third parties. It

collects personal information from you only when you know it's happening, and you can opt out of receiving information requests by clicking a link in the privacy statement or e-mailing the help desk.

ALTAVISTA FREE ACCESS (WWW.MICROAV.COM)

Dubbed the MicroPortal, the banner bar in AltaVista Free Access is actually very useful. You can customize the 502x84-pixel (undocked) MicroPortal to link to AltaVista's site, where you can track your stock portfolio, follow local team scores, and find out what the weather will be. Clicking on the banner bar's Search button replaces the cycling ads with a search box; you have 45 seconds to enter a search term before the ad comes back. Other links include AltaVista-based news, travel, and money sites.



AltaVista Free Access

The Free Access sign-up forms ask for relatively little information: your name, address, and birthday, plus details about recent online research you've done and the type of sites you visit. During setup, you can store more than one access number in case the first one is busy. When you dial in, the login window stays on top of all your apps until login is complete. It's annoying, but the window is small, and you can move it around.

**FREE
ISPs**

AltaVista pledges not to release any personally identifiable information without your permission, except in the case of a service request. But it does provide its advertising partner, DoubleClick, information about your search queries.

BLUELIGHT.COM

Attention, free ISP shoppers! Kmart has teamed with Yahoo to create BlueLight.com, Kmart's online store. (Remember the blue-light special?) Sign-up CDs are available at some Kmart stores, or you can have one sent by snail mail.

This is one ISP that really wants to get to know you, and it won't take no for an answer. During sign-up you'll have to reveal

such information as your marital status, whether you own or rent your home, your occupation and industry, your birth date, and

what you'd buy on the Internet. The service tracks your surf patterns and shares personally identifiable information with third parties. While it pledges not to sell your e-mail or home address to direct marketers, it says it will "occasionally" ask you questions and share the information with others. Like other free services, BlueLight takes no responsibility for information advertisers gain from cookies placed in their ads. An interesting note in BlueLight's privacy policy states "governmental regulations and unlawful interceptions" may make it impossible to protect your privacy.



BlueLight.com

BlueLight's banner bar measures about 486x86 pixels when left to float. It sits on top of your apps, both online and off, but your Start menu is spared. When you anchor it to the top of your screen or to your taskbar it pushes your apps up or down so it's not sitting on them. And although it stretches across the entire width of your screen, it shrinks to 68 pixels high. The ads we saw were primarily BlueLight ads, which we considered odd, because if you're seeing them, you're already signed up.

You can make the banner bar disappear when you visit Yahoo, Spinway, or BlueLight.com by clicking the page icon in the banner bar and checking "Hide banner bar while on partner sites." The Preferences button lets you open a new browser window when you click an ad or link.

Once you're up and running, you'll see a Yahoo Companion toolbar in your browser. This includes Alerts, a feature that notifies you of new e-mail.

Unlike some ISPs, BlueLight shuts down quickly and doesn't leave you hanging while it logs you off. But at 3.51MB, it was one of the larger downloads in the group.

FREEI (WWW.FREEINTERNET.COM)

Along with the large cycling ad in its banner bar, Freei manages to squeeze in nine smaller ads, each constantly flashing in its own bright color.

Like the others, when docked to the top or bottom, the Freei banner bar stretches across your entire screen. If you don't dock it,

you can shrink it substantially (509x76), and you'll see only five of the smaller ads. Buttons for e-mail, browser, chat, and search are hidden in a drawer. But it's difficult to open and close, and easy to click the wrong button. The slow-loading banner ads leave white space in their place, and clicking on it takes you to a blank browser page.

During registration, you're asked for information

What's on the Free-Lunch Menu

Provider	URL	File Size	Banner-Bar Size (pixels)	Pros	Cons
Address.com	address.com	563K	486x86 (800x60 docked)	Relaunched start page will be more customizable	Must use Address.com as your home page; useless links
AltaVista Free Access	www.microav.com	612K	502x84 (800x80 docked)	Customizable banner bar	Login window covers your apps
BlueLight.com	bluelight.com	3.51MB	486x86 (800x68 docked)	CDs available at Kmart stores	Large download; extensive marketing survey
Freei	www.freeinternet.com	1.2MB	509x76 (800x74 docked)	Robust e-mail program	Inconsistent access times; too many ads in banner bar
FreeLane	freelane.excite.com	710K	509x83 (800x60 docked)	Easy installation; small banner bar; doesn't track your surfing habits	Useless banner bar
Juno	www.juno.com	4.75MB	632x81 (cannot be docked)	System-tray icon alerts you to new e-mail	Large download; extensive marketing survey; requires separate connection for e-mail access
NetZero	www.netzero.com	4.76MB	578x104 (800x88 docked)	Customizable banner bar; full-featured start page	Large download; login dialog interferes with apps; disconnects after 30 minutes of idle time and failure to click on a banner ad; largest banner bar
The Simpsons	www.thesimpsons.com	682K	515x87 (800x60 docked)	Bart will crack you up; easy download and installation	Useless banner bar

such as your education level, occupation, and buying habits. Like other sites, Freei supplies this information to business partners and advertisers, but in anonymous form. The service also shares information about your surfing habits with an unidentified third party for use in targeting banner ads. During testing, a survey was pushed to us, and we couldn't continue surfing until we completed it.

Freei's e-mail client was painfully slow during testing. And its access speeds were the slowest in the group, on some days dipping as low as 31.2Kbps. The only bright spot was JoyDesk, Freei's free e-mail program. With its large, easy-to-use icons, extensive configura-

bility, and full-featured calendar and address book, the program is more like Outlook and less like Hotmail.

FREELANE (FREELANE.EXCITE.COM)

Excite doesn't ask for much information when you download its FreeLane software, and installation is a two-click operation. But once you connect, you're bombarded with survey questions before the registration process begins. In its privacy policy, Excite states it may "at times ask you to submit information such as your name or e-mail address, or to share your interests and hobbies with us." If you

don't answer, Excite says it may not be able to provide you with some services dependent on the information, such as a personal-

ized stock portfolio or sweepstakes entry. Excite states the only way it can obtain your personal information is if you register for one of these personalized services.

FreeLane's banner bar is a relatively svelte 800x60 pixels when docked to your Start menu. It doesn't offer much more than a search button and links to partners, but the links are easier on the eyes than Freei's. FreeLane also offers 60 free voice-mail messages and 10 free faxes a month.

JUNO (WWW.JUNO.COM)

Juno's approach to free access is uncommon, and that's a good thing. When you download the software, you're asked to choose three access numbers—one to log on, one for the Web, and a third for e-mail. The first two can be the same, but e-mail



Freei

Free DSL Is Anything But

Those who say there's no such thing as a free lunch are probably referring to "free" DSL service.

This type of digital cuisine might be difficult to swallow.

DSL, short for digital subscriber line, is a broadband service that uses standard copper phone lines for an always-on, all-digital Internet connection that's separate from your voice line.

DSL can achieve download speeds of up to 9Mbps and upload speeds of up to 1.5Mbps. Mileage varies by provider, speed package, and distance from the local telco switch. That's if you can even get DSL. Service isn't available in all parts of the country.

Prices vary widely, but they typically fall in the \$50-per-month range. Bell Atlantic, for instance, charges \$39.95 per month for its Personal Infospeed DSL, which it says is up to 11 times

faster than a 56Kbps modem. Like cable, DSL requires a special modem. Bell Atlantic sells it as part of its setup package for \$99.

Like everything else on the Internet, you can skip all these fee-based services and go right for the free stuff.

Several providers offer free DSL service at much more modest speeds. But just how free these services are depends on how carefully you read the license agreement.

Here's a look at two free DSL providers and what they'll cost you.



FREEDSL (WWW.FREEDSL.COM)

Winfire, FreeDSL's provider, offers free 144Kbps connections in Chicago, Atlanta, Dallas, and Los Angeles/Orange County. Winfire will sell you a modem for \$200, or rent you one for \$10 a month. A multitier referral service helps you gather Winpoints you can use to enter Winfire-sponsored contests and sweepstakes.

Don't terminate this service before 13 months if you don't want to pay a \$200

cancellation fee. And be prepared to update your personal information within 30 days if it changes. Winfire may also add promotional messages to your e-mails and can block any incoming or outgoing e-mail that "violates its then-current policies." The service won't provide individually identifiable information to marketers without your permission.

INYC (WWW.INYC.COM)

INYC takes a different approach to free DSL: You pay for your time by clicking on banner-bar ads, signing up for newsletters, checking stock quotes, or downloading software from iNYC's portal. You don't have to run the banner bar; you can earn iBate points from the portal instead.

If you don't earn any iBates in a given month, iNYC's 384Kbps service will cost you \$69.95 a month. If you come up short, the points you have are given a cash value and deducted from the \$69.95.

INYC may place promotional messages in your e-mails. And, like many other free access services, it shares your information, including your surfing habits, with advertisers and other third parties. Activation could take 14 to 60 days.

Free DSL offerings from iNYC started on the East Coast last spring and are expected to be available nationwide later this year. ▼

ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID FLAHERTY

FREE
ISPs

access requires a separate login. And during e-mail login, a dialog box sits atop all your apps. Before you can access the Web you have to log off e-mail and log back on using the other access number. To get around this you have to access the Web first and then access your e-mail. One useful feature is a mail icon that appears in your system tray when you have new mail.

The list of questions you have to answer is long. Who provides your long-distance service? If it's not Qwest, Juno's sponsor, you'll be peppered with ads later on. How much do you spend on long distance? What languages do you speak? What electronic equipment do you have in your home? What magazines do you read? While one section of the privacy policy states that your "Identifier Information" won't be disclosed to third parties, another section states the company may give it to outside contractors if they promise to use it only for Juno-related business.

Although you can move Juno's 632x81-pixel banner bar around, you can't anchor it to the top or bottom of your screen. Unlike other services' banner bars, Juno's sits on top of all your navigation buttons, including your Start menu. Plus, Juno's huge 4.75MB download was second only to NetZero's.

NETZERO (WWW.NETZERO.COM)

The largest of the free ISPs, with more than 4 million registered users, NetZero also has the largest download (4.76MB) and the largest banner bar, both docked and undocked. After you've answered a barrage of marketing questions and start the installation, you have to click through four screens—terms and conditions, a privacy statement, acceptable-use guidelines, and a license agreement—before you can connect. After that, you'll get a load of e-mails covering such topics as using NetZero's Looksmart portal page and getting technical help. Although we checked the box specifying not to send e-mail, we received 15 during our tests, including one from January instructing us to "Please disregard this expired bulletin."

NetZero's portly 800x88-pixel banner bar, dubbed the ZeroPort, docks to the top or

bottom of your screen. But the ZeroPort does more than hog screen space. You can configure it to bring you news, weather, and stock quotes. Also, if you've set up a NetZero e-mail account, a button alerts you when you

have new messages; resting your cursor over it reveals how many.

Like several others, NetZero's login dialog sits on top of all your apps and prevents you from doing anything else while it's connecting. Standard tech support is free; toll-free, 24/7 "premium" support costs \$14.95 per call.

Now for the fine print. After surfing for 45 minutes, a dialog popped up advising us to click a banner ad or get disconnected. We got one more warning before NetZero terminated.

Like most others, NetZero tracks your surfing patterns. According to its license agreement, it provides this information, along with your questionnaire responses, to advertisers, clients, and marketing organizations. But it won't disclose your name, address, phone number, credit-card numbers, e-mail addresses, or other personal information without consent or as required by law.

THE SIMPSONS (WWW.THESIMPSONS.COM)

If you need a quick laugh, log on to the Internet with Fox Network's The Simpsons. Bart will entertain you with his daily blackboard punishment lessons.



"Organ transplants are best left to the professionals" was the lesson du jour when we checked in on Springfield's bad boy.

If Bart's brand of humor offends you, you can bypass the intro segment and get right down to surfing. And if Homer gets under your skin, you

can delete or change the shortcut that uses the senior Simpson as its icon. Access was consistent, except for one incident of a painfully slow 31.2Kbps.

Except for the e-mail button, banner-bar links are either Fox-related or go to advertisers and sponsors. Even the Search button sends you away—to Ask Jeeves—making the bar fairly useless. The e-mail feature was malfunctioning during testing.

Fox parent News Digital Media's privacy policy is at best ambiguous, at worst contradictory. It states it will advise you when it's collecting "personally identifiable" information about you and how it plans to use it. It also says it will advise you when it intends to share this with third parties, and give you an opportunity to instruct the service not to share this information. But it adds it may give your personal information to third parties, but "in most instances" it instructs these parties not to sell it. The service uses cookies to track your surfing habits for ad-targeting purposes.

THE COST OF FREEDOM

If you're squeamish about privacy issues, you may have to dismiss free service altogether. But if these caveats don't scare you away, you're ready to take a few services out for a spin.

Start your selection process by ruling out those services that lack access numbers in your area. If you want fast access to features such as e-mail, news, and stock quotes, choose a service that starts you off at a customizable portal. If you use other applications while you surf, you may want to steer clear of a service that intrudes on your workspace, or look for a service with a relatively small banner bar. If you do a

lot of downloading, look for a service that won't boot you off after periods of inactivity.

When you've narrowed your choices down to two or three services, run each for at least a month to compare such factors as ease of connection and consistency of access speed. You don't even have to pick just one service. Remember, they're free. If you can't connect on one, access is slow, or you've maxed out your monthly usage limit, switch to your alternate. And at the end of the year, buy yourself something nice with all the money you saved. ▼



Juno



NetZero



> **\$199.95** (CPIII500)

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McGlen.Com offers the full line of 3Com networking products to provide small businesses with the power to share information, access the internet, and connect to remote locations.

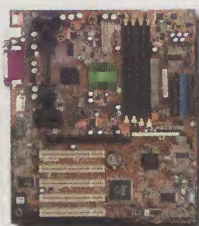


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ABIT's KA7 offers the consumers 4 DIMM, 6 Data Buffer, 6 PCT Slot and SoftMenu™ III Technology and the new 200MHZ FSB technology. In it's new premier motherboard, ABIT has answered with the KA7-100. It is everything the KA7 is with the added feature of UDMA 100 support.

- > **\$146.95** ABIT KA7 (HDABITKA7)
- > **\$93.95** ABIT VT6X4 (HDABITVT6)
- > **\$131.95** ABIT BP6 (HDABITBP6)
- > **\$170.95** ABIT KA7-100 (HDABITKA7-100)
- > **\$74.95** ABIT VA6 (HDABITVA6)



This mainboard features support for UDMA/66 data transfer, AGP 4X, AMR Slot, and JumperFree™ Mode via BIOS setup. The additional upgrades provided included USB ports, PC Health Monitoring and AC '97 Audio to provide users with the maximum efficiency and performance.

- > **\$164.95** Asus K7V (HDASUSK7V)
- > **\$115.95** Asus P3V4X (HDASUSP3V4X)
- > **\$129.95** Asus CUBX (HDASUSCUBX)
- > **\$124.95** Asus P3BF (HDASUSP3BF)
- > **\$292.95** Asus V6800 Deluxe 32MB Graphics Card (HDASUSV6800D32)

Motorola Generic 56K V.90 PCI Modem

> **\$14.95** (HDMOTOPCI56K)

This retail boxed modem combines voice/audio mode with full-duplex speakerphone and is V.90 and K56 Flex compatible. At only \$14.95 surfing online at V.90 is only a mouse click away.



Gigabyte GA-622 NVIDIA TNT 2 32MB 2x/4x AGP Video Card

> **\$91.95** (HDGA-622)



Gigabyte's new motherboard now has the capability to support 133MHz SDRAM memory, FSB, and the latest FC-PGA 0.18 micro Pentium III processor from Intel (Coppermine). These features make this motherboard ready to reach the speed that you had never experienced before.

- > **\$190.95** (HDGA-GF260T)
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- > **\$139.95** (HDGA6BXD) Gigabyte GA-6BXD Motherboard
- > **\$78.95** (HDGA6VXE) Gigabyte GA-6VXE+ Motherboard
- > **\$94.95** (HDGA6VX7-4X) Gigabyte GA6VX7-4X Motherboard



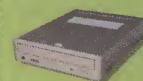
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3 Com's Palm Vx is the ultimate organizer for style conscious power users. With four times the memory of it's predecessor, the Palm Vx is more powerful than ever.

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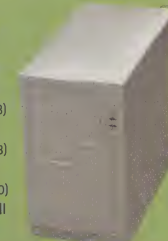
Toshiba's new drive offers the combination of CD-RW and DVD in one. 4X record, 4X re-write, 4X DVD read, and 24X CD read.

S500 235W Mid ATX Tower

> **\$41.95** (HDIWS500)

In-Win S500 case is built with 2x5 1/4 and 2x3 1/2 for faster manufacturing and service, a detachable HDD drive cage for better installation and service, folded edge with no sharp edges and debris for safe installation, and side panel covers for easy access to upgrades and services.

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- A500 300W Mid ATX Tower
- > **\$63.95** (HDIWA5003)
- A500 300W Mid ATX Tower
- > **\$192.95** (HDIWQ2000)
- Q2000 300W Redundant Full Server Tower



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- 32MB NVIDIA TNT2 M64 4X AGP Graphics
- 12X Max DVD-ROM Drive
- SB Live! Value Digital
- Harman Kardon HK-595 Speakers
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- MS® Works Suite 2000 ■ MS® Windows® 98, SE
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⁵For hard drives, GB means 1 billion bytes; accessible capacity varies with operating environment. ⁶Download speeds limited to 53Kbps. Upload speeds are less (about 30Kbps) and vary by modem manufacturer and online conditions. Analog phone line and compatible server required. ¹⁰Online backup services provided by third-party agreement with the customer. Limited to 20MB of storage; additional space available at additional charge. Dell is not responsible for lost data.

¹²Software, packaging or documentation differ from retail versions. ¹⁴The processor may be reduced to a lower operating speed when operating on battery power. ¹⁷For rebate details and coupons, call 800-728-9665 for HP and 800-277-6187 for Epson. Intel, the Intel Inside logo, and Pentium are registered trademarks, and Intel SpeedStep and Celeron are trademarks of Intel Corporation. MS, Microsoft, and Windows are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation.

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Before the Fall

It's not too late to consider an autumn adventure, and you'll find some great options on the Web.

by Elaine X. Grant

After surviving the summer heat and herding the kids into a new school year, it's time to do something for yourself. Why not celebrate the autumn equinox with a trip? After all, it's the most appealing time of the year to travel—the mobs of tourists are back home, and the weather is temperate. Plus, great deals abound—especially on the Web.

New England comes into its own in September, on land and off-shore. Whale-watching is popular through the middle of October. Surf up to **Hyannis Whale Watcher Cruises** (www.whales.net) for information on whale-watching from Cape Cod, as well as educational programs

and updates on whales in the news. Further north, **First Chance Whale Watch Cruise** (www.firstchancewhalewatch.com) in Kennebunkport, Maine, will take you on four-hour excursions near the feeding area of several species, including the finback whale, which can grow as large as 70 feet.

Despite their size, whales pale in comparison with New England's dazzling fall foliage show. If you're looking for a luxurious—and some-

what unusual—way to take in the colors, consider a fall cruise along the coast of New England and Canada. The ships spend the night inching along the shore, and during the day they pull into scenic ports to let you check out the deciduous display. Many even offer special excursions into the countryside for the best views.

For short, affordable cruises, try **Carnival** (www.carnival.com), which has a four-day trip sailing from New York to Halifax, Nova Scotia, in addition to several five-day trips from New York to St. John, New Brunswick. Prices start at \$499 per person, based on double occupancy.

Other lines offering fall-foliage cruises include **Cunard** (www.cunard.com), which will send the storied QE2 on a six-day Fall Passage trip from New York to Portland, Bar Harbor, and Halifax. Prices start at \$949 per person.

Royal Caribbean International (www.rccl.com) has three departures in September and

October, featuring stops in Portland and Bar Harbor, Maine; Halifax and Sydney, Nova Scotia; St. John, New Brunswick; and Quebec City.

Cruises last seven or 10 days, and prices start at \$1,249 per person.

For longer, more luxurious cruises, **Seabourn** (www.seabourn.com) tempts you with two 12-day sailings in September and October. The Fall Tapestry trip leaves from New York and visits Boston; three cities in

New Brunswick; Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island; Quebec City; and Montreal. Rates range from \$8,990 to a whopping \$21,040 per person.

None of the sites listed above offers online booking, but all come through with comprehensive information on ships, itineraries, ports of call, and dates. Most provide a travel-agent search engine that will find a nearby agent who specializes in cruises, and many will let you send an e-mail reservation request direct to the cruise line.

If you're a landlubber, opt for an escorted leaf-peeper tour. Tour operators offering fall-foliage tours include **Brennan Tours** (www.brennantours.com), **Trafalgar Tours** (www.trafalgartours.com), and **Globus & Cosmos** (www.globusandcosmos.com), all of which will put you aboard a motor-coach for eight-day tours from the middle of September through the middle of October.

Starting rates range from \$819 per person double (Globus & Cosmos) to \$1,479 (Brennan). As with the cruise sites, these tour-

operator sites are a great way to get information and plan a trip, but they don't offer live bookings.

If you decide to go it alone, get in the mood with a visit to **Photo.net's** photographers' guide to New England foliage (www.photo.net/photo/travel/foliage.html), which provides beautiful photos as well as tips on where to go and what kind of camera gear to pack. For information



on fall in Vermont, try **Foliage-Vermont** (www.foliage-vermont.com), which spells out your options on lodging and peak color times, and also provides leaf-identification guides, maps, photos, and route suggestions.

Once you've chosen your destination, check out the current last-minute Net specials at **Expedia** (www.expedia.com) and **Travelocity.com**. Starting Labor Day weekend, the airlines increase the number of their promotional fares to select destinations, so before you buy your ticket,



check Expedia's Today's Deals section and Travelocity's Deals & News section to see what's on sale.

And if you want to make a getaway for the long Labor Day weekend but never got around to planning one, remember that all the major airlines offer weekend fares. Head to the airline sites to sign up for e-mail lists of available weekend deals. To see a consolidated list of all available weekend specials, see the Deal Watch section of **WebFlyer** (www.webflyer.com). Another site that's well-worth visiting is **LastMinuteTravel.com**. It's a procrastinator's paradise. ▼

ALL YOUR MEMORY NEEDS ARE ON OUR WEB SITE!

Memory4LessCom/shop **1-800-821-3354**

Providing better quality and service on over 30,000 products.

Sales Hours: Mon-Fri 7am-5:30pm PST

Subscribe to our e-mail specials and price alerts.

Generic memory prices updated daily.

Secure on-line ordering.

Daily Specials

Up-to-the-minute CPU prices.

Drive upgrades and batteries for your laptop.

Search our extensive database for memory upgrades for new and Legacy machines.

The screenshot shows the Memory4Less website with a navigation bar (Home, Contact Us, About Us, Links, Glossary, News, Call Toll Free) and a sidebar with categories like CPUs, Flash Cards, Hard Drives, etc. The main content area features 'GENERIC MEMORY' with a list of DIMM modules, 'CPUs' with a list of AMD processors, and 'Laptop Hard Drives' with a list of laptop models. A 'QUICK BUY' button is visible. A 'HOT DEALS!' banner is also present.

memory4less.com

✓ company tests all products shipped

Memory4Less offers low prices on a wide variety of RAM, including older, hard-to-find types. If you don't know what memory requirements of your computer or digital camera, it will tell you.

AS SEEN IN
COMPUTER SHOPPER
WEB BUYER
SITE REVIEW

WE CARRY ALL MAJOR BRANDS OF CPU UPGRADES/NOTEBOOK UPGRADES/PRINTER MEMORY/DESKTOP MEMORY/SERVER MEMORY/WORKSTATION MEMORY

DESKTOP MEMORY			
APPLE	32M	64M	128M
G-4 (New)	41	60	115
iMac	54	74	135
8500, 9500, Dimms	94	155	283
DELL			
XPS T500, T600, T700	41	60	115
Precision Workstation 610	41	60	115
Workstation 410	75	90	138

NOTEBOOK MEMORY			
COMPAQ	32M	64M	128M
Presario 1200, 1600, 1700	54	74	139
IBM			
Thinkpad 600, 700, i1400	54	74	139
TOSHIBA			
Satellite 410, 420, 610, 720	91		
Tecra 8000, 500	54	74	139
Satellite 4000, 4010, 4020	54	74	139

PRINTER MEMORY			
HEWLETT PACKARD	4M	16M	32M
4000, 5000, 8000	77	99	
4P, 5, 5P, 6, 6p		42	
PANASONIC			
4410, 4430	84		

NOTEBOOK HARD DRIVES			
TOSHIBA	2GB	4GB	6GB
Satellite 300CDS	179	215	259
COMPAQ			
Concerto 425	179	215	259
CTX			
EZBook	179	215	259
SHARP			
PC8700	179	215	259



Prices and delivery subject to change without notice. Prices listed are as of 5/11/00. Shipping & handling charges are not refundable. All returns require 90-day and copy of original. No returns or exchanges after 15 days. Purchaser must pay for shipping and insurance for all returns. Resocking fee 25% on non-defective returns and goods must be in original resalable condition. All trademarks and registered trademarks are property of their respective companies.

Tel: 714 826-5981 Fax: 714 821-3361 Memory 4 Less 2622 W. Lincoln Ave, Suite 104, Anaheim, CA 92801

WebBuyer

**SITE
REVIEWS**

SITE REVIEWS FOR ONLINE SHOPPING

COMPILED BY KEVIN SAVETZ AND ABIGAIL CRANE

PC SHOPPING SITES

The sites in this listing sell products from multiple manufacturers. See the sites under "PC Direct Vendors," or check the *Computer Shopper* Source Directory (cgi.zdnet.com/slink?8145), for more information on PC manufacturers offering only their own brands (such as Dell and Gateway).

aberdeeninc.com

- thumbs up volume pricing • smooth navigation • easy ordering
- thumbs down limited software selection

Built for the savvy consumer who craves technical information, **Aberdeen** offers extensive specs on a wide variety of computers and accessories.

accessmicro.com

- thumbs up smooth navigation • easy ordering

Shoppers will enjoy the selection at **Access Micro**, which offers 45,000 items ranging from memory to T1 routers. The help desk and hardware guide provide aid to first-time visitors.

blackbox.com

- thumbs up smooth navigation

Specializing in cabling and network-connectivity products, **Black Box's** extensive 900-page catalog of storage, LAN, switch, surge-protection, and other accessories can be viewed online or off.

buy.com

Best Site winner this month. See below.

cablestogo.com

- thumbs up hard-to-find tools and test equipment
- thumbs down \$30 minimum order requirement

Cables To Go sells every conceivable cable, cord, or wire your PC might need, from standard SCSI to esoteric system-specific cables. You'll also find networking products and all sorts of adapters.

cdw.com

- thumbs up list of rebates and coupons
- business leasing options available
- thumbs up smooth navigation • easy ordering

CDW offers an impressive array of hardware and software. The comparison tool lets shoppers create side-by-side comparisons in many product categories.

compuplus.com

- thumbs up easy ordering • good return policy

Comp-U-Plus highlights its customer service, offering a 30-day money-back guarantee and free technical support. Its catalog isn't the biggest, but plenty of name brands are represented, and prices are reasonable.

compusa.com

- thumbs up smooth navigation • easy ordering

CompUSA is a well-organized site offering a fair amount of PC hardware,

accessories, and software, with electronics and video-game gadgets rounding out the selection. Don't overlook the site's clearance section.

computability.com

- thumbs up handy side-by-side product-comparison tool • smooth navigation • easy ordering

Beginning its mail-order business in 1982, **ComputAbility** has aged considerably better than the Commodore 64 you bought that year. The site offers desktop, notebook, and handheld computers, plus peripherals and software.

computercomputer.com

- thumbs up easy ordering

Interested in buying components and piecing together your own PC? **Computercomputer.com** sells bare-bones systems that'll make a good starting point.

computers4sure.com

Best Site winner this month. See p. 202.

computershopper.com

- thumbs up smooth navigation

Computer Shopper's own computer-buying site, **computershopper.com**, provides access to product reviews, interactive guides on choosing a desktop or a notebook, and How to Buy sections on the most popular product categories.

buy.com

Point and click your way through this monstrous, multifaceted site, and you'll find anything and everything from computers and software to electronics, books, movies, music, and video games. **Buy.com** sells 850,000 items in its U.S. store. In addition to this branch, it runs local sites for the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia.

Despite the site's mind-blowing selection, shopping is fast and efficient. If you're a first-time buyer, the Passport Express Purchase feature may make it possible to make your purchase without typing your address, if you already have an account with Hotmail or MSN.

Our order arrived two days after it was placed, and the site's informative e-mail messages and online order tracking kept us informed every step of the way. Round-the-clock customer service is available by e-mail or a toll-free phone call. The return policy is quite fair: You won't get stuck paying a restocking fee if you simply change your mind. If you find a lower price at another Internet

store within 24 hours of placing your order, Buy.com will match it. Shipping costs are reasonable and clearly spelled out; for an even better deal, check out the Free Shipping Store link.

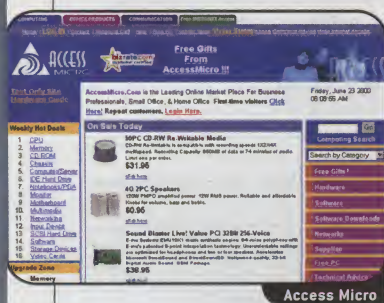
BUY.COM

Main focus: Computers, software, consumer electronics

Additional categories: Books, movies, video games, music, golf

Number of products offered: 850,000

Areas of development: Growing selection of downloadable commercial software; License Online program provides quick means for acquiring software licenses.



www.applied-computer.com

- thumbs up smooth navigation
- thumbs down handling fee on orders under \$200

Selling PCs and supplies since 1984, **Applied Computer** promises to match or beat any advertised price. The company stocks 800,000 products—check the site's list of the 1,000 most popular ones.



SITE
REVIEWS**computersurplusoutlet.com**

- thumbs up consignment service

Frugal shoppers and do-it-yourselfers will feel at home at **Computer Surplus Outlet**, a computer hardware liquidator. The company sells closeouts, overstocks, refurbished equipment, and liquidation items at bargain-basement prices. You can find complete, assembly-required Pentium systems for less than \$100.

cqk.com

- thumbs up smooth navigation

Designed for folks who know what they want, **Computer Quick** offers plain-box, best-buy, and closeout merchandise in addition to a selection of more than 90,000 items in regular stock.

cyberrebate.com

- thumbs up "100% Off" tab shows 300 products whose rebates equal their cost.
- smooth navigation • easy ordering

- good return policy
- rebates take 10 to 14 weeks to process

CyberRebate.com only sells products that come with money-back rebates. There is a small selection of computer accessories and software. In addition, the site offers electronics, office supplies, toys, and kitchen items

cyberwarehouse.com

- thumbs up smooth navigation • good return policy
- may take up to three days to ship

If you're the kind of shopper who can't pass up a bargain-basement sale or an outlet mall, this site may be for you. **CyberWarehouse** offers PCs, monitors, printers, and other peripherals.

dalco.com

- thumbs up international and APO/FPO orders
- smooth navigation

Dalco stocks everything from motherboards to monitors. Bargain hunters will want to start with this site's specials,

which are shown on the home page and change regularly.

www.damark.com

- thumbs up smooth navigation • easy ordering
- good return policy

Damark offers a variety of PCs and notebooks, as well as accessories, digital cameras, and home electronics. Factory-serviced items are available, and the outlet area delivers low prices on items in short supply.

direct411.com

- thumbs up easy ordering

Direct411 offers an impressive selection of 50,000 in-stock hardware and software products. The catalog includes servers, memory upgrades, storage devices, digital cameras, and software.

dirtcheapdrives.com

- thumbs up detailed archive of technical-support information • quantity discounts available • smooth navigation • easy ordering

If you can store data on it, this site sells it. **Dirt Cheap Drives** offers deals on hard drives, CD-ROM and DVD hardware, drive arrays, and hard-to-find laptop storage. This 10-year-old company also stocks mounting kits, media, and other accessories.

ebworld.com

- thumbs up can search for age-appropriate games • lists release dates for new game titles • smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

Electronics Boutique is a gamer's paradise. Here you'll find game software and add-ons for your PC and your Mac, as well as titles for Dreamcast, Nintendo 64, and other game consoles. Check out the new releases, best-sellers, and gaming news.

ecost.com

- thumbs up same-day shipment on most orders • photos and warranty details for most products • smooth navigation • easy ordering

The **eCost.com** catalog spans the full realm of PC hardware and software, including ready-to-use systems, periph-

erals, accessories, software, and games. Featured specials in each category point shoppers to the best deals, and fastidiously organized subcategories help them find the exact products they need.

egghead.com

- thumbs up smooth navigation • easy ordering

Egghead.com shoppers can browse the hardware, software, and electronics superstores, or check out the deals on surplus computer merchandise. In addition, the site also sells home electronics, sports and fitness merchandise, and travel packages.

**electrified.com**

- thumbs up 30-day guarantee on all items
- se habla español • good return policy

Looking for deep discounts on older laptops, notebooks, monitors, and printers? **Electrified** specializes in products that are discontinued, second-inventory, refurbished, off-lease, or otherwise not state-of-the-art. Systems range from new Pentium II laptops to under-\$200 used 486s.

elinux.com

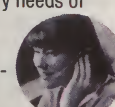
- thumbs up smooth navigation • easy ordering

The **eLinux.com** site offers hardware and software for users of the Linux operating system. Desktop and notebook systems for sale here have been tested with Linux and don't come bundled with that "other" OS.

firstsource.com

- thumbs up real-time online customer service
- smooth navigation • easy ordering

Focused on the technology needs of businesses, **Firstsource** offers a broad range of choices in computer hardware, rack-mount systems, network tools, phone systems, wiring, and business software.

**computers4sure.com**

The 15 well-stocked departments at **Computers4Sure.com** offer a breadth of products, including networking equipment, peripherals, PDAs, and scanners. The selection spans 60,000 products, and the tabbed interface makes it easy to find the right category. The PC selection includes prebuilt machines, servers, and notebooks, as well as Apple products and barebones kits.



Fast and intuitive, the site delivers handy features for choosy shoppers. The Laptop Comparison page includes a helpful price/performance comparison chart, and the Digital Camera Focus page offers useful buying tips for photographers. Bargain hunters can quickly sniff out deals on the Rebates and Special Offers page. The

Clearance area features specials on discontinued, refurbished, and repackaged products.

A powerful search function lets shoppers look for a favorite manufacturer or items within a particular price range, and highlights low-price and in-stock items.

The EZ Order Tracking tool provides instant updates on your order's status and can generate printable receipts. In addition, informative e-mail messages keep you abreast of shipment status. The company's liberal return policy is restocking fee-free.

COMPUTERS4SURE.COM

Main focus: Computer hardware and accessories

Additional categories: Software, telephones

Number of products offered: 60,000

Areas of development: Expanding customer-service and sales staff



gogocity.com

👍 smooth navigation • easy ordering

You'll get beyond **GoGoCity.com's** funny name when you see its excellent selection of computer hardware. You'll find desktop and notebook computers, peripherals, software, and PC accessories of all types. Detailed product information, often with pictures, rounds out the catalog.

insight.com

👍 separate sites for the U.S., Canada, Germany, and the U.K.
• smooth navigation • easy ordering

With more than 100,000 items, **Insight** offers an impressive and easy-to-navigate catalog of hardware and software products. More than 100 free newsletters feature new-product news, closeout specials, and tech news.

www.jandr.com

👍 smooth navigation • easy ordering

Whether you're shopping for an Aiptiva or an iMac, hardware and accessories abound at **J&R Computer World**, making this a one-stop shop for many. You'll also find a huge selection of digital and traditional film cameras.

laptoptravel.com

👍 smooth navigation

Laptop Travel sells portable-computing and international travel gear, including electrical adapters, modem converters and couplers, and security accessories. You'll find traditional and "camouflaged" laptop carrying cases, laptop RAM, and storage add-ons.

thelinuxstore.com

👍 smooth navigation

If your PC is "penguin-powered," **The Linux Store** might be your place to shop. The site offers a small selection of hardware and software that's compatible with the popular alternative operating system. The community area offers Linux news, free downloads, and Web links.

mcglen.com

👍 smooth navigation • easy ordering

McGlen Micro's specialized searches can help you find memory and other

accessories compatible with your computer, printer, and copier. Shoppers can design a custom system to be built and shipped in two days.

megahaus.com

👍 lifetime technical support on all products • CD-mastering and other utility software • smooth navigation

MegaHaus calls itself "the drive authority." It offers a wide variety of storage solutions, including hard drives, DVD drives, RAID, and removable storage. A technical-information area features FAQs and specifications on hardware ranging from DVD players to drive brackets.

mei-microcenter.com

👍 smooth navigation • good return policy

MEI-Micro Center offers new and refurbished desktops from Compaq, eMachines, Hewlett Packard, and PowerSpec. There's also a small selection of peripherals. Rummage around the bargain bin for deals on closeouts, refurbished units, and overstocks.

memman.com

👍 all memory carries a lifetime warranty • smooth navigation • good return policy

When it's time to upgrade the memory in your desktop or laptop, don't forget **Memory Man**. Besides memory chips, the site sells processors, motherboards, hard drives, heat sinks, and batteries for many types of notebooks.

memory4less.com

👍 company tests all products shipped • smooth navigation

Memory4Less offers low prices on a wide variety of RAM, including older, hard-to-find types. If you don't know the memory requirements of your computer or digital camera, it will tell you. The site also sells CPUs, motherboards, and laptop hard drives.

microx-press.com

👍 smooth navigation • easy ordering

MicroX-Press offers detailed information about most products, as well as a handy "E-mail me when this product is priced at..." feature and a configura-

SITE REVIEWS

tion tool. Customers are invited to rate and review products they've tried.

mobileplanet.com

👍 smooth navigation • easy ordering

Offering gadgets for mobile professionals, **MobilePlanet** is home to a gaggle of high-tech tools and toys. The selection includes handheld and notebook computers, PDAs, wireless communication products, and travel-size printers and scanners—plus countless accessories for each.

**motherboards.com**

With a wide selection of motherboards from nine manufacturers, do-it-yourselfers can pick the perfect innards for their new PCs at **Motherboards.com**. This Web store offers CPUs, memory, graphics cards, drives, and other internal essentials.

www.mwave.com

👍 smooth navigation • easy ordering

Multiwave Direct's friendly site sells a multitude of hardware and software products. In addition to PC systems and peripherals, this Web store stocks notebook accessories, videoconferencing equipment, and network tools.

www.necx.com

👍 smooth navigation • easy ordering
👎 \$25 surcharge for phone orders

NECX offers all manner of hardware, accessories, and software. The Showcases section highlights products in specialty categories, such as PDAs or USB peripherals. The How to Buy guides offer impartial advice on selecting and installing common PC add-ons.

neutronet.com

👍 purchases earn credit points toward your next order • smooth navigation • easy ordering

Neutron Computers carries thousands of computer systems and peripherals from nearly 400 different manufacturers and distributors. The site's handy toolbox offers easy access to best buys, help for first-time buyers, and a massive manufacturer directory.

www.notebooksuperstore.com

👍 devoted exclusively to portable computers • easy ordering

Notebook Superstore sells more than 90 different laptop models from eight manufacturers. You'll see technical details about each model, and a comparison tool helps you zero in on the best portable for your needs. Corporate accounts receive lease options and volume discounts.

123cdc.com

👍 smooth navigation • easy ordering

Computer Discount Center offers a wide variety of PC add-ons, including storage, digital cameras, and displays. Shoppers will find competitive prices and detailed product information.

**officedepot.com**

👍 free next-day delivery on orders of more than \$50 within local trading areas • smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

Office Depot sells everything for the office: files to filing cabinets, briefcases to bookcases. The site's computer category offers a selection of prebuilt machines from major manufacturers. Office Depot provides free downloadable business forms, letter templates, and spreadsheet templates.

www.officemax.com

👍 free next-day delivery on orders of more than \$50 • low-price guarantee • smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

A few clicks at **OfficeMax** can transform a bare room into a fully furnished office. You'll find computers, other business machines, office furniture, and even paper and pencils under this virtual roof.



SITE
REVIEWS**onvia.com**

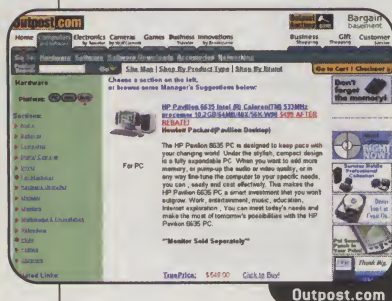
- smooth navigation • easy ordering
- good return policy

Onvia.com offers a rich variety of products, including hardware, software, telephone systems, office furniture, and office products. Shoppers can ask a product specialist questions at the help forum or search previous postings.

outpost.com

- free overnight delivery on all items • smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

Outpost.com is a lush home to hardware, accessories, and software. Visit the Game Outpost to get your playtime fix, or bid against other shoppers for hardware in the OutpostAuctions area. Get gift ideas for every person and budget in the Gift Ideas section.

**www.palmgear.com**

- mailing lists offer news, specials, and user tips • smooth navigation

Palm-device users will appreciate the extensive selection of free and commercial downloadable programs at **PalmGear H.Q.** The site features lists of the newest Palm programs, as well as essential software picks. Shoppers can buy handheld hardware and accessories, including carrying cases and stylis.

www.thepartsfinder.com

- smooth navigation
- minimum \$75 order

A friendly site that uses a graphical interface to simplify finding CPU fans, power supplies, cables, and screws, **The Parts Finder** is targeted at computer hobbyists and corporate buyers. Even the most mundane parts, such as bezels, fans, and batteries, are listed.

pcconnection.com

- smooth navigation • easy ordering

In business for more than 15 years, **PC Connection** offers good deals on a colossal variety of products. Smart Selectors ease the searching process for shoppers looking for systems, cameras, printers, monitors, or memory to fit specific guidelines.

pcmall.com

- free lifetime technical support
- smooth navigation • easy ordering

Many folks are familiar with **PC Mall's** thick, colorful catalog, and the online version is just as dense. PC Mall has a vast selection of computers, hardware, and software.

pcprogress.com

- smooth navigation

If you're in the market for PC components and peripherals, check out **PC Progress**. The site specializes in cost-effective memory, with a lifetime warranty. You'll find a large selection of memory, including notebook, iMac, and printer RAM.

pcstop.com

This purveyor of hardware and software offers 50,000 computer-related products from 1,300 manufacturers. **PC Stop's** unusual interface makes shoppers start with a search—you can't just browse.

pcwonders.com

- corporate and educational accounts available • smooth navigation • easy ordering

At **pcWonders.com**, you'll find more than 90,000 hardware and software products. Additional categories include car audio, home electronics, PDAs, and bargain blowouts.

pczone.com

- printable rebate coupons
- smooth navigation • easy ordering
- handling fee on smaller orders

PC Zone boasts an impressive product selection of all things PC-related, including desktops, notebooks, printers, monitors, storage devices, CPU upgrades, and network equipment—

plus PDAs, digital cameras, and handheld MP3 players. You'll also find links to a clearance area and other stores: **Mac Zone** and **Zones Business Solutions**.

provantage.com

- smooth navigation • easy ordering
- good return policy

Provantage offers PC products from more than 1,000 manufacturers. The selection includes software, hardware, books, and training materials. The site's Personal Tracking List feature lets customers build a list of product bookmarks, then monitor the products' prices and availability.

www.qualityclick.com

- leasing options • easy ordering
- good return policy

The **Quality Click** Web store covers all the basics for the PC user, including hardware, networking supplies, accessories, and software. Technical support is available through a toll-free phone number, fax, or e-mail, and sales support by live chat.

shopper.cnet.com

The **CNET Shopper** search engine takes the guesswork out of finding a deal on hardware, software, and accessories. The site tracks the prices of more than 200,000 products in 100 stores.

shoppingplanet.com

- smooth navigation

Do-it-yourselfers will appreciate **Shopping Planet's** inventory of barebones systems, add-on cards, and kits. An arm of the site that specializes in software and hardware for the Linux operating system is available at shoppingplanet.com/cm/linux.asp.

www.sparco.com

- smooth navigation • easy ordering

Sparco's catalog of more than 130,000 products makes it simple to shop for computer equipment. Looking for that something extra? Check out the list of products that come bundled with "free stuff."

**www.spiderglass.com**

Spider Gear offers new and refurbished computers, cameras, home audio and video products, car-audio items, and appliances. A \$10 optional membership entitles you to reduced prices, an annual rebate, and advance notice of new products.

www.ssdonline.com

- The E-list service stores your product preferences • smooth navigation

At **State Street Direct's** Web store, shoppers will discover a huge selection of consumer electronics in addition to computers and imaging products. Digital photographers will find many items of interest.

staples.com

- peruse your history of past purchases, even months later • liberal price-matching policy • smooth navigation • good return policy

Even if a **Staples** store is just down the block, you might prefer this elegant Web site when shopping for computer accessories, software, and office supplies. If you order similar items often, you can set up personalized lists to avoid filling out a new form every time.

**2for1inkjet.com**

- free shipping on orders of six or more items, or at least \$200 • smooth navigation • good return policy

If your printer is putting you in the poorhouse, pay a visit to **2 For 1 Inkjet**, where you'll find two-for-one supplies for every brand of inkjet and laser printer, copier, and fax machine.

3re.com

- smooth navigation • easy ordering
- good return policy

SITE
REVIEWS

Specializing in used computers and rebuilt electronic equipment, **3Re.com** takes open-box returns from original equipment manufacturers, and repairs and repackages the machines. Offerings include desktops, notebooks, printers, monitors, network equipment, and software.

tccomputers.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

In business since 1988, **TC Computers** sells fully configured systems, motherboards, and name-brand peripherals. The company's specialty is motherboards—it tests each one prior to shipping and bundles a step-by-step installation video.

**tcwo.com**

smooth navigation • good return policy

Thompson's Computer Warehouse Outlet Center offers "wholesale computer parts to the public." The selection is small—you may find only a dozen monitors or four CD-ROM drives—but the prices are fantastic. Browse the selection or print out a complete price sheet for easy reference.

techstore.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

TechStore offers hardware in dozens of categories, ranging from CPU upgrades to storage devices. The site also offers a wide range of software—everything from Microsoft applications to children's titles.

tigerdirect.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

TigerDirect's site offers custom-built computers, tested and shipped within 48 hours. Shoppers in the mood for an adventure can order a build-it-yourself custom PC kit.

trudata.com

library of useful free software downloads • smooth navigation

True Data Technology's selection spans desktops, laptops, and palmtops, with an exceptional catalog of motherboards, hard drives, and other upgrade accessories. The site also features communication essentials for businesses, including DSL equipment and telephony products.

www.usbstuff.com

Looking for gadgets to plug into your new Universal Serial Bus-equipped computer? **USB Stuff** has it all, including digital cameras, CD-RW drives, printers, modems, hubs, input devices, cables, and adapters. A sister site at **www.firewirestuff.com** stocks IEEE 1394/FireWire-compatible hardware.

usedcomputer.com

index of nonprofit organizations accepting computer donations

Used Computer Mall is a marketplace for used computer equipment. Shoppers can list hardware to sell or look for items to buy using the free classified ads. The site can also help you appraise equipment.

warehouse.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

The five "warehouses" under **MicroWarehouse's** roof sell PC hardware and software, Mac products, networking components, and supplies. The site provides corporate, educational, and government accounts. Business leases are available.

PC DIRECT VENDORS**aventec.com**

cancel an order before it is shipped and incur a \$100 fee

Aventec offers preconfigured AMD- and Intel-based desktop systems. For do-it-yourselfers, the site sells the parts to build your own PC, including cases, accessory cards, and a wide variety of motherboards. Check out the Basement for clearance items.

axissys.com

easy ordering • good return policy

The **Axis Systems** Web store offers a best-price guarantee on its preconfigured notebooks, servers, desktops, and workstations.

buyabs.com

smooth navigation • good return policy

Offering exceptional customer support on quality desktop and notebook systems is the goal at **ABS**. Shoppers can custom-configure a wide variety of PCs.

buy-atlas.com

good return policy

The **Atlas Micro** site sells a variety of preconfigured desktop PCs. Buyers can select from computers built around Pentium II and III, Celeron, Cyrix, and AMD processors.

cybermaxpc.com

downloadable drivers and online tech guide • smooth navigation

CyberMax offers AMD- and Intel-based systems in a wide variety of configurations to suit almost every need. The choices range from speedy desktop machines for gamers to light laptops for business travelers.

www.cyberpowerpc.com

smooth navigation • good return policy

From the DVD Dream to the Lightning Professional, the computers at **Cyberpower** have names as good as their warranties—three years, with a 30-day money-back guarantee.

dell.com

Best Site winner this month. See below.

www.directplus.compaq.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

dell.com

Carrying the online banner for one of the largest names in direct PC sales, **Dell's** Web store upholds the company's stellar reputation. The site specializes in built-to-order desktop and notebook PCs, offering detailed specs, an online tour of each product, and copious customization options. This diverse site offers something for every PC shopper: computer auctions, a factory outlet for refurbished machines, and, in the Gigabuyers arm, new peripherals and accessories.

Ordering from the site is fast and efficient, whether you're a first-time buyer or a returning customer. We received a confirmation e-mail just minutes after placing an order, complete with an estimated ship date and online and offline customer-service contact information.

Dell's Total Satisfaction

Return Policy ensures buyer satisfaction. If you need help, the site provides extensive technical support customized for your particular system and personal understanding of PCs. When you need help from a live person, support is available by phone, Web message boards, and e-mail.

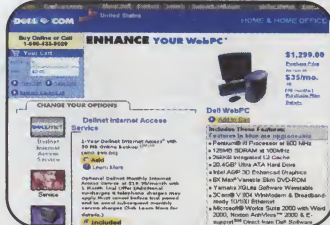
DELL COMPUTER CORP.

Main focus: Custom-built desktops and notebook PCs

Additional categories: Peripherals, software, auctions

Number of products offered: Seven desktop, server, and notebook product lines; 30,000 software products and peripherals

Areas of development: Customized customer-support Web sites



Compaq DirectPlus carries desktops, portables, workstations, and servers. The Compaq Factory Outlet at www.compaqworks.com offers discounts on refurbished and new overstock merchandise.

e4me.com

smooth navigation

With PCs starting at \$399, **eMachines** has found its niche in low-cost desktop and laptop computers. The site offers optional add-ons for your system, including a three-year extended service warranty, Internet access, and two sizes of monitors.



fpcdirect.fujitsu-pc.com

smooth navigation • good return policy

Purchase **Fujitsu** notebook computers from the source. This Web site offers personal, business, and multimedia notebook computers, with several warranty options on each. Check the Refurbished Outlet for deals.

www.gateway.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

One of the biggest names in online computer sales, **Gateway** serves small businesses, corporations, educational institutions, government bodies, and home users. Its site sells desktops, portables, and a complete line of accessories.

ibm.com/shop

smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

Once synonymous with the phrase "personal computer," **IBM** still pushes the envelope. Its site offers business and home computers, notebooks, servers, thin clients, and the networking equipment to hook them all together.

kaypro.com

smooth navigation

Kaypro's first computer, released in the early '80s, used a Z-80 processor and ran the long-forgotten CP/M operating system. Today, the company's Web site sells decidedly more modern desktop computers, allowing shoppers to custom-configure Pentium III systems.

micronpc.com

smooth navigation • good return policy

One of the largest direct PC vendors, **micronpc.com** has a Web sales site broken into clear areas to suit many types of customers, including home-office users, large businesses, government buyers, and buyers outside the United States.

nutrend.com

smooth navigation

Custom-configure a home or business PC at **NuTrend**. The company offers a wide selection of desktop machines running your choice of Intel or AMD processors. Each system comes with a three-year warranty.

www.quantex.com

smooth navigation

Desktops, notebooks, servers, workstations, and peripherals—all are offered at **Quantex's** Web store. Shoppers who need assistance can get instant help using the site's live customer-service chat system. A community area allows Quantex PC users to keep in touch.

www.sagernotebook.com

leasing options available • smooth navigation • good return policy

Specializing in portable computers, **Sager** offers its customers a variety of options, from budget-minded machines to speedy multimedia units. The one-year warranty includes a 72-hour repair-turnaround guarantee.

www.shopacer.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

Notebooks, desktops, and accessories are for sale at **Acer's** site, in addition to

SITE REVIEWS

ready-to-use PC bundles for home, business, and education. Reconditioned systems are available at the Acer Outlet.

shopprostar.com

smooth navigation • good return policy

Each computer in **ProStar's** line of notebook PCs is backed by a 30-day money-back guarantee, a speedy repair promise, and free tech support.

store.apple.com

smooth navigation • easy ordering

Apple's easy-to-use online store allows buyers to custom-configure the company's Power Mac G4, PowerBook, iMac, and iBook computers. A wide array of Mac-compatible software and accessories is also available.

vaio.direct.sel.sony.com

smooth navigation • good return policy

VAIO Direct sells Sony's line of desktops, notebooks, digital cameras, displays, and storage devices. The Xtras Direct arm offers add-ons for PCs, digital cameras, and other equipment.

www.winbook.com

smooth navigation • good return policy

Focusing exclusively on notebook computers, **WinBook** offers machines with a 30-day money-back guarantee, a one-year warranty, and free technical support.

INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS

www.att.net

AT&T WorldNet offers 450 local access numbers. The standard pricing plan is \$19.95 per month for 150 hours of access. For \$2 more, power users can get unlimited access. Families and Webmasters will appreciate the whopping 60MB of Web-page space and six e-mail addresses.

compuserve.com

Owned by America Online, **CompuServe** is aimed at professionals and is more powerful than AOL. Access is \$9.95 per month for 20 hours, or \$19.95 for unlimited access. Customers get seven e-mail addresses and 5MB of Web-page space.

csg.sprint.com/internet

Unlimited access to **Sprint Earthlink** costs \$19.95 a month (\$2 less if you are a Sprint long-distance customer). The service provides 6MB of Web-page space and an impressive 1,400 local access phone numbers nationwide.

free.msn.com

no access to Usenet newsgroups

Displaying a recently revamped interface, **MSN Internet Access** costs \$21.95 per month for unlimited access, and the first month is free. You'll also find more than 800 U.S. and international access numbers. The service is not available for Mac users. MSN provides 12MB for Web pages.



www.mciworld.com

MCI WorldCom offers more than 750 local access numbers across the United States. It costs \$19.95 for up to 150 hours of access each month (\$3 less if you are an MCI long-distance customer). Additional online time is 99 cents an hour.

www.newaol.com

Known for its ease of use, **America Online** is the nation's most popular ISP. It offers many pricing plans, including one for \$21.95 per month that gives unlimited access. Extras include members-only forums, 14MB of Web-page space, and seven e-mailboxes.

prodigy.com

A \$19.95 monthly fee buys unlimited access to **Prodigy Internet**. Low-usage and deluxe-access plans are also available. Users get 6MB of Web-page space. Accounts come with only one e-mail address, but you can add 10 additional ones for \$2 extra.

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more than I do
about computers.
but I know
more about getting
a good deal.



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- V.90 56K Capable⁶ PCI DataFax Modem for Windows®
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- MS® Works Suite 2000 ■ MS® Windows® 98, SE
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- Modular 24X Max CD-ROM
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- 3-Yr Next-Business-Day On-site Service⁴


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- SoundBlaster 64V PCI LC Sound Card
- PC Speakers
- V.90 56K Capable⁶ PCI DataFax Modem for Windows⁷
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- harman/kardon Speakers
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- HP® DeskJet® 932C, add \$199
- Epson® Stylus Color 740, add \$99

Scanners:

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- Epson® Perfection™ 610, add \$129
- UMAX® 2100U, add \$89

Power Protection:

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- APC SurgeArrest Per 7, add \$17.95

Software:

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- Home Reference 4-pack¹⁶, add \$79

SERVICES

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- 3Com® V.90 56K Capable® PCI Telephony Modem
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20 ways to shop smart online

how to shop safe

1 Make Your Connection Secure

Before you submit any sensitive or private information about yourself—especially your credit-card number—make sure that the data will be encrypted and transmitted over a secure connection. Both your browser and the Web site's server should support industry standards, such as Secure Electronic Transaction (SET) or Secure Sockets Layer (SSL).

2 Protect Your Passwords

Don't create a password based on information that can be easily discovered, such as your birth date, telephone number, or Social Security number. Instead, use a unique combination of at least five letters, numbers, or symbols.

3 Protect Your Privacy

Take a moment to read the company's privacy policy, which should detail what information the site collects and how it will be used.

Limit your exposure by filling out online forms carefully. Don't volunteer optional information. Instead, provide only the information required to complete a transaction.

Never divulge information—such as your mother's maiden name—that can be used to gain unauthorized access to your accounts.

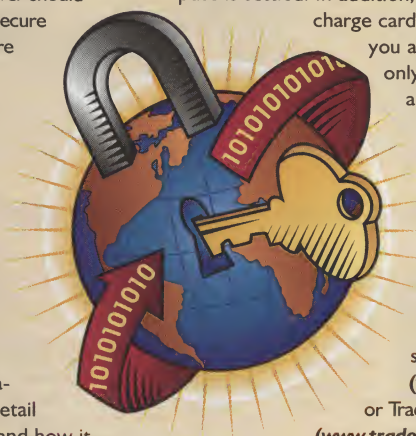
Various free and fee-based Web services will let you surf and shop anonymously. For example, Anonymizer (www.anonymizer.com) or Privada

(www.privada.net) will let you visit Web sites without revealing your name or e-mail address.

4 Use an Insured Payment Method

Paying for your online purchases with a credit or charge card isn't just convenient—it's smart. Your transaction is protected by the Fair Credit Billing Act, which gives you the right to dispute charges and to withhold payment until the dispute is settled. In addition, if your credit or charge card is used fraudulently, you are normally liable for only \$50 of the total amount.

Cash payments are increasingly common on the Internet, thanks to online auction sites. For large sums, you should use a fee-based escrow service, such as i-Escrow (www.iescrow.com) or Tradesafe (www.tradesafe.com).



5 Check References

Look for the Better Business Bureau Online Reliability Seal (www.bbbonline.org), which guarantees that a company has been in business for a minimum of one year, has become a member of a local Better Business Bureau, and agrees to arbitration in case of a dispute.

BizRate (www.bizrate.com) conducts customer surveys and publishes ratings for categories such as quality of merchandise, quality of customer service, and timeliness of shipping.

save time & money

1 Charge It

Don't pay by check: Always use a credit card or e-cash whenever you buy online.

2 Look for Seals

Look for seals of approval—from Yahoo, TRUSTe, and the Better Business Bureau. These ensure that the company is legitimate and that your personal information will be protected.

3 Get Help

When you have questions, use online customer-service support features, including online chat and voice-over-IP functions, as well as toll-free numbers.

4 Buy Big

Consider buying smaller items such as printer toner cartridges, diskettes, Zip disks, and cables in volume to save money.

5 Save and Print

Save a copy of your online order receipt by saving the Web page locally. For extra security, print it out.

6 Clip and Save

Almost all vendors offer coupons and rebates, but few consumers bother to find them.

7 Track Your Delivery

Pay attention to shipping information and options to learn when your order is supposed to

Auction sites such as eBay (www.ebay.com) provide a feedback section, where purchasers can comment on the reliability of individual sellers.

6 Check the Terms of the Sale

Reputable online retailers display the terms and conditions of the sale, including warranties on the merchandise, limitations of liability, and return and refund policies. Some sites display this information prominently on a "click-wrap" screen that requires you to accept the terms before completing the purchase. Other sites provide links to the information.

7 Include Taxes and Shipping

Scrutinize the shipping and handling fees tacked onto your bill. Per-item fees and expedited shipping methods can bloat the total purchase price. Look for sites that offer low-cost shipping methods or that deliver free of charge when you place a large order. Charging sales tax is required by law in many states.

8 Double-Check Order Forms

Before you finalize a purchase, proofread your order form. Typos, such as typing "22" instead of "2," can be costly mistakes. If your shipping address differs from your billing address, there is no way for the vendor to confirm its accuracy, so double-check it yourself. You should also make sure that the pricing information you see onscreen is absolutely current and not an old price from a page that was cached on your system during a previous visit.

9 Estimate the Delivery Date

The seller should inform you of an approximate delivery date. Federal Trade Commission rules state that if the seller does not specify a time period in which the product will be shipped, the merchant must either ship the product within 30 days, or notify you of the delay and offer to cancel the order and refund your money.

10 Complain About Problems

If you do experience a problem with an online purchase, notify the company immediately. Check the Web site for a toll-free phone number, an e-mail address, or links to customer service. If the company itself does not resolve the problem, contact the Better Business Bureau (www.bbbonline.org), the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftc.gov/ftc/complaint.htm, or your state attorney general's office (www.naag.org).

arrive. If at all possible, get a tracking number.

8 Buy Used

Check closeout or refurbished product sections. These often include amazing bargains. Just make sure they include some sort of warranty.

9 Search Smart

Use bots, or automated search engines, to compare prices among resellers. But be aware of possible bias—some bots are hosted by sites that also sell products.

10 Be Specific

If you know the name and model number, enter them for much faster searching.

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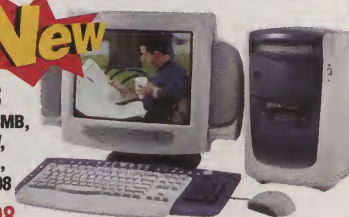
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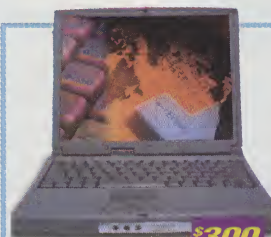
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Before you place an order at your favorite e-commerce site, open a window to **DailyDeals**. Its coupon pages offer coupon codes that will instantly shave \$5 to \$20 off the bottom line at major online retailers. The First Time area links to sites that offer substantial discounts to first-time customers.

The screenshot shows the DailyDeals website interface. It features a sidebar with categories like 'Hot Deals', 'Free Stuff', 'Free Money', 'Online Coupons', 'Free Internet', 'Free Games', 'Free Time', and 'Deal Finder'. The main content area displays a 'Featured Deal' for a 'FREE' offer on a 'DailyDeals.com' coupon. Below this, there are several 'Deal of the Day' listings with details on the savings and expiration dates.

dcresource.com

message board • links to digital-camera stores

The **Digital Camera Resource Page** is an unbiased, comprehensive source of information for digital-camera buyers and owners. Shoppers will enjoy the FAQ page, buyer's guide, and reviews.

dealtime.com

DealTime Mobile service lets you compare prices from a cell phone or

The screenshot shows the DealTime website. It features a 'Comparison shop for almost anything!' section with a search bar and a list of categories including 'Automotive', 'Books & Music', 'Business', 'Computers', 'Electronics', 'Food & Drink', 'Health & Beauty', 'Home & Garden', 'Jewelry & Accessories', 'Movies', 'Music', 'Office', 'Pet Supplies', 'Software', and 'Travel & Leisure'. The main content area displays a 'Going Higher? Try DealTime!' banner with a 'Great Gift Ideas' section and a 'Top Picks' section.

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SITE REVIEWS

DealTime is an independent comparison-shopping service that helps you decide where to buy online. The site aggregates prices from hundreds of merchants, auctions, and classified sites.

expertcity.com

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currently no support for Mac or Unix operating systems

Expertcity promises live, 24-hour computer assistance from real human beings. When you pose a question, experts across the Internet bid for your business. Read their profiles, compare prices, then choose the expert you like.

56k.com

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Don't buy a new modem until you've visited **56K Modem Central**. Start with the primer on 56Kbps modems, learn the difference between technologies, then use the price shopper to find a model at the best price.

www.ftc.gov

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The **Federal Trade Commission's** Web site is packed with useful information for consumers. The content covers the spectrum of consumer fraud and how to avoid it—online and offline. Articles address online auctions and protecting yourself when shopping on the Net.

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Gomez.com offers ratings and customer reviews of e-commerce sites in two dozen categories, ranging from Web-based computer stores to drug-stores, apparel shopping to online brokers. Read other customers' reviews and check their ratings on ease of use, customer confidence, and cost.

help-site.com

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Help-Site is a great place to find FAQ lists, tutorials, manuals, and official as well as unofficial support. You'll find documentation on DOS, Windows, OS/2, and even Unix and VAX/VMS systems.

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Helptalk offers free assistance for most Windows software and hardware. The site offers 30 message boards where you can ask questions about applications, operating systems, and programming.

**modemhelp.com**

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ModemHelp provides technical support for modem users and a hearty list of links to other modem-related sites. You'll find information on upgrading modems, tools for diagnosing problems, tutorials, and discussion forums.

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productreviewnet.com

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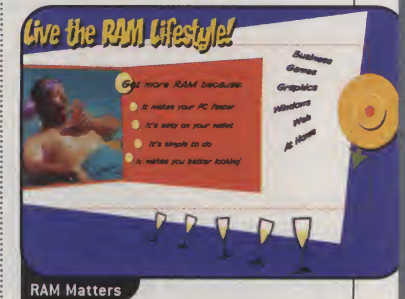
customer-satisfaction database
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Find Internet businesses that deliver the best service—and avoid the ones that don't—with **ePublicEye.com**, a customer-service rating site. The site uses secret shoppers who patronize Internet businesses, conducting audits and rating the service of each business.

rammatters.com

Flash 4 plug-in required for maximum effects

RAM Matters humorously explains how adding memory to your computer will make you more productive, and, so the site claims, better-looking. You'll get help in determining the type of memory your computer requires, plus installation tips.

**www.scambusters.com**

information on viruses—real and fake

Internet Scambusters is a site and a newsletter aiming to help Net users avoid getting cheated. Each newsletter focuses on a single type of scam, ranging from the merely annoying to the downright dangerous. Scams that target online shoppers are also covered.

The screenshot shows the Internet Scambusters website. It features a 'Home' section with a 'Search the Site' bar and a 'New Virus Alert!' section. The main content area displays a 'FREE: Subscribe to Internet Scambusters Now!' banner with a 'Subscribe' button and a 'Latest Urban Legend!' section.

usb.org

message board fields questions
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Check this site for technical information about the **Universal Serial Bus**, as well as answers to frequently asked questions and information about devices that use the bus. There's information for end users as well as developers.



SITE
REVIEWS**windrivers.com**

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WinDrivers.com is a comprehensive archive of drivers and DLL files for hard drives, sound cards, scanners, and other hardware. The site also provides links to antivirus updates and BIOS upgrades.

World O' Windows is a collection of useful news, resources, and tips about current and future versions of Microsoft Windows. Information and user tips abound. The site can be invaluable if you're considering upgrading or if your recent upgrade is causing problems.

SOFTWARE SITES**accountingshop.com**

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The **Accounting Shop** Web store focuses entirely on accounting software. Shoppers can choose from an extensive catalog of high-end, midrange, and small-business packages, including AccuBooks, Business Works, MAS 90, and Peachtree. Easy-to-understand charts let you compare products by type, function, or price.

beyond.com

Best Site winner this month. See below.

buycheapsoftware.com

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Dealdealdeal offers office suites, utility software, graphics programs, operating systems, games, and edutainment software. Although the selection isn't massive, shoppers will find a nice mix of new software and older titles—handy, whether you're looking for Microsoft Office 2000 or Office 97.

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When you're looking for shareware or free software, **Download.com** is a fine starting point. Well-written newsletters and down-to-earth reviews will help you find the perfect programs. The site links to tens of thousands of files of PC, Mac, Linux, Windows CE, and Palm software.

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Windows users who want great software without having to spend any money can start at **Freeware Files**. This Web site offers links to gratis business applications, screen savers, games, and many other types of software. It features quick links to the most popular giveaways.

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GameDealer.com offers software for a multitude of video-game consoles. You can browse by platform or seek out the type of game you prefer, such as sports simulations or family games. Check out the new releases, or pre-order from the list of upcoming titles.

**www.worldowindows.com**

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beyond.com

Beyond.com specializes in software, presenting a cornucopia of choices for PC, Mac, and PDA users. You'll enjoy extensive details about each program's features and system requirements, plus ratings from customers who have bought the program. (The site generates these ratings by sending e-mail surveys to customers two weeks after they buy a product.)



In addition to a trove of traditional boxed titles, the site sells downloadable software from publishers such as Intuit, Macromedia, and Symantec. Via a special download manager, shoppers can pay for and install Windows software in minutes. Although Beyond.com's main focus is software, the site also offers a respectable selection of computer hardware, including digital cameras, PDAs, and storage devices.

Other perks include online order tracking, informative buyer's guides, and special pages for buyers in federal and state government agencies. Specialized product centers offer grouped product offerings such as \$9.99 children's software, MP3 tools, and Linux products. Plus, Beyond.com will build a customized list of software recommendations based on your interests, operating system, and budget. Customer service is available via e-mail or a toll-free phone call.

BEYOND.COM

Main focus: Boxed and downloadable software

Additional categories: Hardware, games, handhelds

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SECTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 220

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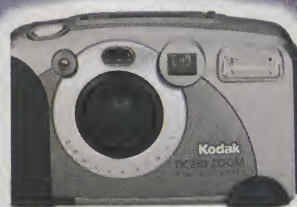
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- 1 year warranty



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- Windows 98SE
- DVD Rom Drive
- 1 year warranty

Hot New Model



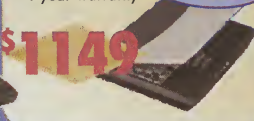
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TOSHIBA

SATELLITE 1675CDS

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- 64MB of Ram
- 12.1" dual scan display
- 24x CD-Rom drive
- 56k v.90 modem
- Windows 98 SE
- 1 year warranty

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- > 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- > 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots which support ZV-Port and Card Bus
- > PCMCIA 56K Capable V90 Modem
- > 75.6w Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 1 IEEE 1394 Port & 1 Video-In Port
- > 2 USB Ports & 1 TV-Out Port
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
- > Microsoft Windows 98
- > Carrying Case and AC Adapter

15.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Mobile Pentium® III Processor 700MHz
Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
128MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
Removable 20.0GB Hard Drive¹
8X¹ Max. DVD-ROM Drive

\$2645

15.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Mobile Pentium® III Processor 750MHz
Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
256MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
Removable 20.0GB Hard Drive¹
8X¹ Max. DVD-ROM Drive

\$3045

2893



Common Features

- > 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > Removable 6.0GB, 10.0GB, or 20.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- > 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- > 3D Surround Sound
- > 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot which supports ZV-Port and Card Bus
- > 10/100 Ethernet Lan Adapter
- > 56K Capable V90 Modem
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 2 USB Ports
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
- > Microsoft Windows 98
- > Carrying Case and AC Adapter
- > Slim Notebook: 12.8" w x 10.15" d x 1.49" h

15.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Mobile Pentium® III Processor 600MHz
Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
64MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
Removable 10.0GB Hard Drive¹
24X¹ Max. CD-ROM Drive (8X¹ Max. DVD opt.)

\$2095

15.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Mobile Pentium® III Processor 700MHz
Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
128MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
Removable 10.0GB Hard Drive¹
8X¹ Max. DVD-ROM Drive

\$2495

3593



Common Features

- > 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > Removable 6.0GB, 10.0GB, or 20.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- > Removable 3.5" 1.44MB FDD exchangeable with opt. LS-120 or 2nd HDD
- > 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- > 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots which support ZV-Port and Card Bus
- > PCMCIA 56K Capable V90 Modem
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 1 IEEE 1394 Port
- > 2 USB Ports & 1 TV-Out Port
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
- > Microsoft Windows 98
- > Carrying Case and AC Adapter
- > Slim Notebook: 12.4" w x 10.1" d x 1.4" h

14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Mobile Pentium® III Processor 700MHz
Featuring Intel® Speed Step™ Technology
128MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
Removable 10.0GB Hard Drive¹
8X¹ Max. DVD-ROM Drive

\$2295

14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Mobile Pentium® III Processor 750MHz
Featuring Intel® Speed Step™ Technology
128MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
Removable 20.0GB Hard Drive¹
8X¹ Max. DVD-ROM Drive

\$2595

3593



Common Features

- > 128KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Celeron™ Processor)
- > 256KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Pentium® III Processor)
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > Removable 6.0GB, 10.0GB, or 20.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- > Removable 3.5" 1.44MB FDD exchangeable with opt. LS-120 or 2nd HDD
- > 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- > 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots which support ZV-Port and Card Bus
- > PCMCIA 56K Capable V90 Modem
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 1 IEEE 1394 Port
- > 2 USB Ports & 1 TV-Out Port
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
- > Microsoft Windows 98
- > Carrying Case and AC Adapter
- > Slim Notebook: 12.4" w x 10.1" d x 1.4" h

14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Celeron™ Processor 500MHz
64MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
Removable 6.0GB Hard Drive¹
24X¹ Max. CD-ROM Drive (8X¹ Max. DVD opt.)

\$1745

14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Mobile Pentium® III Processor 600MHz
Featuring Intel® Speed Step™ Technology
64MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
Removable 10.0GB Hard Drive¹
24X¹ Max. CD-ROM Drive (8X¹ Max. DVD opt.)

\$1945

Options LS-120 Drive • Iomega Zip Drive • Car Adapter • Port Replicator • Numeric Keypad • PCMCIA Cards (V90 Data/Fax, Ethernet 10/100 16-Bit, MPEG-II) • Please call for options availability, most options are notebook specific. **Tech Support** 888-576-4742 **Leasing & Warranty** Business leasing available on all ProStar systems. Lifetime toll-free technical support. One year parts and labor warranty. 30-day money back guarantee. 3 year warranty from Phillips Magnavox

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3153



Common Features

- > 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > Removable 6.0GB, 10.0GB or 20.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- > Removable 3.5" 1.44MB FDD exchangeable with opt. LS-120 or 2nd HDD
- > 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- > 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots which support ZV-Port and Card Bus
- > PCMCIA 56K Capable* V90 Modem
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 2 USB Ports & 1 TV-Out Port
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Carrying Case and AC Adapter
- > Slim Notebook: 12.4" w x 10.1" d x 1.4" h

3153



Common Features

- > 128KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Celeron™ Processor)
- > 256KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Pentium® III Processor)
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > Removable 6.0GB, 10.0GB or 20.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- > Removable 3.5" 1.44MB FDD exchangeable with opt. LS-120 or 2nd HDD
- > 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- > 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 2 Type II or 1 Type III PCMCIA Slots which support ZV-Port and Card Bus
- > PCMCIA 56K Capable* V90 Modem
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 2 USB Ports & 1 TV-Out Port
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Carrying Case and AC Adapter
- > Slim Notebook: 12.4" w x 10.1" d x 1.4" h

3493



Common Features

- > 128KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Celeron™ Processor)
- > 256KB On-Die L2 Cache (Intel® Pentium® III Processor)
- > 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- > Removable 6.0GB, 10.0GB or 20.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- > Removable 3.5" 1.44MB FDD exchangeable with opt. CD-ROM, DVD-ROM, or LS-120
- > 3D Surround Sound with Hardware Wavetable
- > 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 1 Type II PCMCIA Slot
- > 56K Capable* V90 Modem
- > Smart Lithium-Ion Battery
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 1 USB Port & 1 TV-Out Port
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > Jacks: 1 Line-In, 1 Line-Out and 1 Microphone
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Carrying Case and AC Adapter
- > Super Slim Notebook: 11.93" w x 9.05" d x 1.16" h

5150



Common Features

- > 128KB On-Die L2 Cache
- > AGP 4MB S3 Pro 3D Video
- > Removable 6.0GB, 10.0GB or 20.0GB Hard Drive opt.
- > 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- > 3D Sound Effect
- > 2 Built-In Stereo Speakers and 1 Built-In Microphone
- > Built-In Touchpad Pointing Device
- > 2 Type II PCMCIA Slots which support ZV-Port and Card Bus
- > NiMH Battery (Smart Lithium-Ion Battery opt.)
- > Infra Red, Wireless Fast IR Interface
- > 1 USB Port & 1 TV-Out Port
- > Other Ports: 1S, 1P, Ext. Keyboard and Ext. CRT
- > Jacks: 1 Headphone and 1 Microphone
- > A4 Size 86-Key Keyboard for Easy Typing
- > Microsoft® Windows® 98
- > Carrying Case and AC Adapter
- > Super Slim Notebook: 11" w x 9.4" d x 1.5" h

14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 700MHz
64MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
Removable 10.0GB Hard Drive*
24X* Max. CD-ROM Drive (8X* Max. DVD opt.)

\$1945

13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Celeron™ Processor 500MHz
64MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
Removable 6.0GB Hard Drive*
24X* Max. CD-ROM Drive (8X* Max. DVD opt.)

\$1645

13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Celeron™ Processor 500MHz
64MB SDRAM expandable to 256MB
Removable 6.0GB Hard Drive*
24X* Max. CD-ROM Drive (6X* Max. DVD opt.)

\$1695

12.1" SVGA HPA Display
Intel® Celeron™ Processor 500MHz
32MB SDRAM expandable to 256MB
Removable 6.0GB Hard Drive*
24X* Max. CD-ROM Drive

\$1245

14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 800MHz
128MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
Removable 20.0GB Hard Drive*
8X* Max. DVD-ROM Drive

\$2295

13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 700MHz
64MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 512MB
Removable 10.0GB Hard Drive*
8X* Max. DVD-ROM Drive

\$1995

13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
Mobile Pentium® III Processor 600MHz
Featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
64MB SDRAM expandable to 256MB
Removable 10.0GB Hard Drive*
24X* Max. CD-ROM Drive (6X* Max. DVD opt.)

\$1845

12.1" SVGA Active Matrix Display
Intel® Celeron™ Processor 500MHz
64MB SDRAM expandable to 256MB
Removable 6.0GB Hard Drive*
24X* Max. CD-ROM Drive (6X* Max. DVD opt.)

\$1395

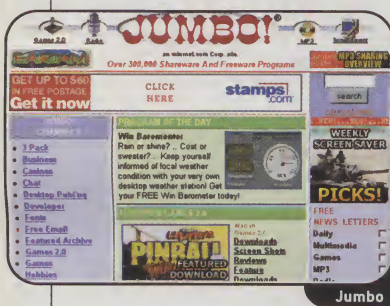
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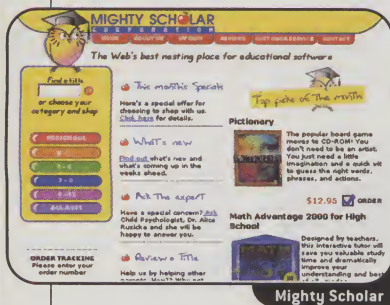
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softwarespectrum.com

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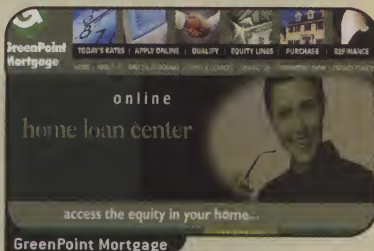
• The Web allows you to shop for a mortgage on your own terms. You can often get basic information about loan rates and options without sharing your personal information. If you do choose to share your name, address, and phone number, however, you can expect to be contacted by a lender.

• Use your Web browser to shop for the best interest rates. Many mortgage sites—such as E-Loan (www.eloan.com), GreenPoint Mortgage (www.greenpointdirect.com), Quicken Loans (www.quickenloans.quicken.com), and MortgageStart.com—list their rates on their Web sites, updated daily. Or get aggregate information from MortgageQuotes.com, which provides rates from 1,400 lenders.

• The process of choosing and obtaining financing can be more than a little daunting. Mortgage101.com is an informative Web site that offers hundreds of plain-English explanations and definitions. More than a dozen calculators will help you figure how much house you can afford, whether it's time to refinance, and what tax benefits you get when you buy a home.

• Some sites will prequalify you for a home loan, but don't go this route until you've settled on a lender. Prequalification means the lender will run a credit check. Unnecessary credit checks can make getting a loan more difficult later.

• Although you may be used to buying software and books online, getting a mortgage is a much more intricate process. The Web is a great tool for research, but don't rule out signing the deal with a local mortgage broker. In complex financial matters, sometimes there is no substitute for a face-to-face talk.



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ETrade investors can learn about companies, then build and manage their own stock portfolios. Amenities include free streaming NASDAQ Level II quotes, IPO allocations, and real-time updates.

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Hoover's Online offers countless resources for financial research. Free tools include daily financial headlines and the Stock Screener.

ino.com

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schwab.com

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- services for high-volume traders

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stockmaster.com

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wallstreetcity.com

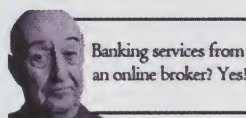
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waterhouse.com

- offers checking accounts with electronic bill payment

At **TD Waterhouse's** Web site, the money-minded will find brokerage, banking, and mutual-fund services. Waterhouse freely makes available company news, reports, and charts to investors with inquiring minds. Online stock trading costs a flat \$12 per transaction.



Banking services from an online broker? Yes!

windowonwallstreet.com

WindowOnWallStreet.com offers professional-level stock trading services, including real-time quotes, dynamically updated charts, and online trades. Other features include real-time option chains, as well as streaming quotes and news. The service costs \$79.95 per month and requires you to install a desktop Internet client.

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Wall Street Research Net offers thousands of links to help professional and private investors perform research on companies and mutual funds, as well as locate important economic data. Brokerage reports and historical stock-price data are available for a fee.

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ClearStation is a financial-advisory Web site that helps investors make decisions by identifying and interpreting stock trends.

datek.com

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At **CNET Auctions**, a site dedicated to computer-product auctions, you can bid on the hardware and software listed, or put any computer items you'd like to sell on the block. Sellers range from individuals to well-known companies.

auctions.com

offers auction types unavailable elsewhere • smooth navigation
diverse category listings can be hit-or-miss

At **Auctions.com**, you'll find 6,000 categories of user-to-user auctions. The computer-auction listings offer a respectable quantity of PC hardware and software. You pay no fee to list items for sale, but the site takes a small percentage if your items sell.

auctions.goto.com

trend-watch and message boards
smooth navigation

GoTo Auctions puts at your disposal a cross-auction search engine that hunts for items in 14 categories.

auctions.yahoo.com

no charge to list items for sale
large selection of antiques and collectibles • smooth navigation

Yahoo's user-to-user auction site offers hundreds of thousands of items in diverse categories ranging from computer hardware to motorcycles. Collector clubs, message boards, and live chat let sellers and buyers talk, ask questions, and trade items.

auctions.zdnet.com

the Auction Agent will notify you when a new auction meets your criteria
smooth navigation

The auction site of **ZDNet**, *Computer Shopper's* parent company, offers pri-

marily computer hardware and software. Categories include consumer electronics, gaming, domains, and services. You'll find user-to-user auctions, as well as new and used items offered by well-known businesses.

bid.com

The **Bid.com** business-to-user equipment auction site offers desktop and notebook computers, monitors, upgrades, cameras, and home electronics. Equipment may be new or refurbished.

ebay.com

Best Site winner this month. See below.

ewanted.com

smooth navigation
unique system, but the selection of "items wanted" is small compared to the number of products for sale on traditional auction sites

"Turning auctions upside down" is the goal of **eWanted**. The site allows potential buyers to list the items they're looking for. Sellers can submit offers, bidding down the price to earn the business. Categories include computer equipment, antiques, baby items, and real estate.

haggle.com

smooth navigation

Haggle.com is a user-to-user auction site that has nearly 40 computer-related categories, plus "other stuff" auctions ranging from musical instruments to automobiles. Sellers will appreciate the free basic listings.

**itrack.com**

auction news area

Simple to use, **iTrack.com** searches online auctions so you don't have to. Free memberships allow you to select five patterns (combinations of an auction site and an item) at a given time; for \$25 per year, you can search 10 patterns at a time; and for \$50, 20 patterns at a time. You can choose from 14 auction sites.

tradeout.com

smooth navigation

TradeOut.com describes itself as a "business-to-business exchange for excess inventory and idle assets." It helps companies buy and sell surplus goods—from computers to car parts to construction supplies. Most items are sold at auction, but others are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

ubid.com

smooth navigation

UBid's business-to-user auction house offers computers, electronics, housewares, sports items, jewelry, and gifts. If you can't wait several days to learn if you've won, click on the Auctions Closing This Hour link.

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The impressive **AtYourOffice.com** site offers everything for the office, from the essential to the mundane—30,000 products in all. You can limit searches to products that are generic brands, eco-friendly, or manufactured by women- or minority-owned businesses.

businessplans.org

links to franchise information, public-relations resources, market analysis, and other sites

The **Center for Business Planning** offers a library of real business plans that you can download and review offline, an automated tool that can evaluate your marketing strategy, and a massive collection of links of interest to anyone starting a business.

consultlink.com

consultant reference checks available • smooth navigation

ConsultLink is a directory service that helps businesses find contractors and independent consultants in a wide variety of high-tech fields, such as technology strategy, programming, and techni-

ebay.com

EBay is the Internet's most popular auction site, and for good reason. The sheer volume of auctions—half a million begin every day—means there is always something of interest for sale, no matter what your interests.

Well-executed special features are one reason eBay transcends other user-to-user auction sites. For instance, My eBay has a central tool you can use to track your buying and selling activity, monitor interesting auctions, and access favorite product categories. The Gallery lets you shop by

looking at pictures rather than reading countless product descriptions.

The site's community tools make eBay more than just a place to buy computer parts and comic books. The Feedback Forum lets you verify a seller's transaction history before you place a bid, and the message boards facilitate chats with other

users between shopping sprees.

EBay bolsters its site with unique services for auction buyers and sellers. All purchases are insured up to \$200 through eBay's SafeHarbor insurance program. And the site's new Billpoint service allows even occasional sellers to accept credit-card and electronic-check payments.

**EBAY**

Main focus: User-to-user auctions of every imaginable object in 4,300 categories

Number of products offered: About 4 million items on any given day

Areas of development: Partnerships with Wells Fargo to ease person-to-person credit-card transactions, and E-Stamp to sell postage online



cal writing. ConsultLink charges a fee to access each profile. A flat-fee option allows unlimited profile views.

directdeposit.com

Since 1991, **National Payment Corp.** has been providing direct-deposit services for small and medium-size businesses. Using a secure Web browser, you can submit payroll for direct deposit to your employees' bank accounts. The site can exchange data with more than two dozen accounting programs.

efax.com

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eFax.com
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Sign Up
Products
My Account
eFax Mail
eFax Send
eFax Corporate
eFax Wireless
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e-stamp.com

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buying postage requires special hardware

E-Stamp lets you buy postage over the Internet, then print that postage on your printer. You can use E-Stamp to send first-class, Priority Mail, Express Mail, and parcel-post items. The site sells envelopes, labels, postage scales, and other mailing supplies.

www.fedworld.gov/taxsear.htm

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At **FedWorld** you'll find downloadable tax forms for tax years 1992 through 1999 and instructions on filling them out, as well as IRS publications, tax tables, and tax regulations.

iprint.com

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With the help of **iPrint.com**, creating personalized items for business is a snap. Place your mark on stationery, rubber stamps, business cards, and sticky notepads, or create your own promotional items like key chains, T-shirts, and golf balls.



iship.com

The **iShip** tracking tool is a one-stop spot for seeing the status of shipments sent with any major carrier. The QuickPrice function offers cost comparisons of the U.S. Postal Service, UPS, FedEx, and Airborne Express.

officebase.com

smooth navigation
orders may take three weeks to fill

From office machines to snacks, this office-supply store sells just about anything you could need in the workplace. **Office Base** is simple but effective, making it easy to find products.

onlinepayroll.com

Online Business Services will help any business become more efficient and receive more than 80 financial reports. Online Payroll can receive payroll information by telephone, fax, modem, or direct link with your electronic time clock.

paycheckcity.com

Paycheck City provides Web-based calculators to verify the accuracy of payroll checks. Employers can use the site to complete W-4 forms, and employees can verify what they should be paying in federal, state, and Social Security taxes.

www.pointofsale.com

Pointofsale.com specializes in retail essentials, including point-of-sale software and hardware, bar-code scanners, magnetic-stripe readers, and receipt printers. FAQs answer basic questions about bar codes, POS systems, and cash drawers.

SITE REVIEWS

smartship.com

helps find your nearest package drop-off site
limited information about smaller carriers

SmartShip makes it easy to select the right carrier for your shipments. Enter the weight and other details about your package, and the site will help you choose the best major carrier, whether your priority is speed or cost.

www.ssa.gov

smooth navigation

The **Social Security Administration's** site can make the necessary task of paying Social Security understandable to small-business owners. The Guide for Employers offers detailed help with employer wage-filing responsibilities. The FAQ answers questions about documentation and filing deadlines.

stamps.com

no special hardware required
must be online to print postage

Stamps.com lets customers buy postage online and print it using an inkjet or laser printer. You can send items first-class, Priority, and Express Mail. Delivery confirmation and certified mail are also available.

usa.net

USA.net can set up a Web post office for your business, letting you and your employees have instant access to e-mail from any Web browser.

The long list of standard and premium features includes necessities such as spell-checking and language translation.



www.virtualpayroll.com

Virtual Payroll simplifies the cycle of payroll and taxes for small businesses. Through this secure site, company and employee information is entered to set up initial payroll accounts; with periodic updates, employees are paid by direct deposit within 48 hours.

webex.com

offers Web-based business collaboration
requires a special plug-in

WebEx is an online collaboration system that hosts thousands of daily meetings. Share documents and applications with colleagues who have your meeting-room password and the WebEx plug-in. Free "virtual offices" offer personalized conference rooms with online calendar, address-book, document-storage, and directory tools.

CONSUMER ELECTRONICS

consumer-direct.com

smooth navigation

Shopping for something simple, such as a surge protector? Or complicated, like C-Band satellite receivers? Either way, **Consumer Direct Warehouse** provides a selection of brands and styles to explore.

crutchfield.com

Best Site winner this month. See p. 224.

800.com

review your complete order history • smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

The **800.com** site specializes in video and audio systems, personal electronics, video games, and movies. See side-by-side comparisons of products. The selection includes digital cameras, televisions, and home and car stereos.

etown.com

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shipping costs and return policies can vary among etown.com partners

Consumer electronics is the focus at **etown.com**, a site offering gadgets such as cordless phones and flat-screen televisions. The site also serves up consumer-electronics news, informative features, and a knowledge bank that explains how to buy, use, and troubleshoot equipment.



SITE
REVIEWS**giantsavings.com**

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GiantSavings.com offers a wide selection of home electronics, ranging from DVD players to PDAs.

globe-mart.com

smooth navigation • good return policy

Global Mart's electronics area offers audio/video components, flat-panel displays, digital cameras, and multifunction printers. The selection also includes handheld PCs and uninterruptible power supplies.

hifi.com

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Hifi.com offers home-audio and home-theater products for everyone from the budget-minded to the most sophisticated audiophile. You get free shipping and

a no-questions-asked 45-day return policy on most products.

igo.com

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The **iGo** site sells electronic necessities for folks on the go, including PDAs, cellular phones, and carrying cases. The extensive catalog of add-ons includes antennae, batteries, and other accessories for users of mobile digital devices.

servicemerchandise.com

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many items only available for in-store pickup

In business for nearly 40 years, **Service Merchandise** is a catalog showroom offering electronics, health and exercise equipment, toys, travel items, and jewelry. The electronics area of its Web site sells home-office products, video equipment, sound systems, and cameras.

va.com

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ValueAmerica offers an array of home-entertainment products, including audio and video equipment, cameras, and communications products. Plus, you'll find movies, games, and other media. Extended service plans are available, and online shoppers enjoy free shipping.

theweb-shop.com

easy ordering

Shop **The Web Shop Superstore** for a wide variety of home-electronics offerings, including computers, home-office equipment, cameras, camcorders, and home and car audio.

CAMERAS

abbeycamera.com

links to manufacturer sites
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Abbey Camera's catalog of more than 10,000 cameras and accessory items will impress even veteran photographers. The options range from 35mm cameras to medium- and large-format models, darkroom supplies, and professional gear.

keh.com

message board offers technical advice • smooth navigation • good return policy

In business for 20 years, **KEH Camera Brokers** peddles new items as well as good-condition used equipment. The automated buying service gives an immediate quote on what KEH will pay for your used equipment.

www.normancamera.com

good return policy

From point-and-shoot models to high-tech digital cameras, you're likely to find it in **Norman Camera's** catalog. See a large selection of film scanners, video cameras, and accessories.

photoalley.com

tips and how-to articles • smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

From Agfa to Yashica, if it has a lens, it's at **Photo Alley**. This site features a catalog of more than 11,000 products, ranging from cameras and gadget bags to camcorders and even binoculars.

**ritzcamera.com**

free shipping on orders more than \$50 • smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

In addition to offering cameras and accessories, **Ritz Camera** also sells photo albums and frames. Shoppers with a retail location nearby can see their photos online in one hour, then order reprints or merchandise with a photo on it.

BOOKS AND MUSIC

www.alibris.com

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Amazon.com's catalog of books, CDs, and videos is nothing short of gargantuan.

crutchfield.com

In business for 26 years, **Crutchfield** assembles an impressive catalog of audio and video products for your home and car. The information its site provides is just as impressive. Order-response time is also top-notch: Two days after we placed an order, a Federal Express truck arrived with the goods. Inexpensive two-day shipping is standard for most orders.

Shopping for a car stereo? The site's Vehicle Selector will steer you to

CD players, cassette receivers, MiniDisc players, and speakers designed to fit your car. Crutchfield also sells tools and accessories for installing car-stereo components and building speaker boxes. The selection of products for the home is also superb, ranging from digital home-theater systems to phonographs.

The extensive Info Center offers glossaries, guides to choosing components, answers to frequently asked questions, and installation tips. Expert advice is also available via a toll-free phone number—before you order and for the lifetime of the purchase. The company's return policy provides for an exchange or full refund for any reason within 30 days—Crutchfield even pays for return shipping.

CRUTCHFIELD CORP.

Main focus: Audio and video products for home and car

Additional categories: Automobile accessories and security products

Number of products offered: 5,000

Areas of development: Currently publishing new guide to home theater and multiroom audio/video installation; planned improvements include interactive online customer service and community features to demonstrate how buyers use their gear.



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Audible delivers the next generation of books on tape. Buy and download audio programs, such as *The Wall Street Journal* or best-selling books. Then listen to the programs on your PC or a portable player.



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With millions of titles in its catalog, **Barnes & Noble's** site is a book lover's dream. If the book you want is out of print, don't despair: It might be available through Barnes & Noble's association with used-book sellers across the country.

bookfinder.com

mailing list for booksellers

BookFinder is a search engine that scans the databases of 15,000 booksellers to find new, used, rare, and out-of-print books. It's a quick way to search many independent bookstores at once for hard-to-find titles.

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If you've ever gotten lost in one of **Borders'** enormous retail stores, you'll appreciate this vast site. It offers a selection of 10 million books, CDs, and videos. Check out the In the News listings to find today's topical books.

SITE REVIEWS

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CDnow is a megasite offering an extensive catalog of titles on vinyl, cassette, and CD. RealAudio sound clips and reviews are available for many of the discs. The Album Advisor learns your musical tastes and suggests other bands you'll enjoy.

cdworld.com

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CDworld sells software, video games, movies, and music—more than half a million items in all. You can get movies on videotape, DVD, laserdisc, or movie CD. Video-game choices include Dreamcast, Nintendo, and PlayStation, as well as PC and Mac titles.

checkout.com

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The Checkout Entertainment Network offers music, movies, and video games, wrapped up in an entertaining shopping experience. The site serves up featured artists, quizzes, trivia, and lists of top sellers. You'll find plenty of detail about each item, complete with an editor's review, ratings, and technical details.

codysbooks.com

world's largest selection of Passover books and merchandise • 20 to 30 percent discounts on best-sellers

An independent bookstore based in Berkeley, Calif., **Cody's Books** offers a searchable catalog of its 150,000 in-stock titles. In addition, the store can order any in-print book, plus books published in some other countries. The site offers thoughtful recommendations and reading lists.

emusic.com

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EMusic.com offers downloadable MP3 music. You can purchase an individual song, usually for 99 cents, or download an entire album for about \$9.

www.express.com

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Express.com sells DVD movies, music, video games, and electronics. You'll find plenty of information about each title, and preordering hot releases is a breeze. The Auction area offers collectible goodies from the worlds of television, film, and sports, such as movie props and autographed scripts.

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ktel.com

online radio station • \$6 CDs in the bargain bin • smooth navigation • easy ordering • good return policy

Six departments at **K-Tel** offer a variety of merchandise with an emphasis on entertainment. At the custom CD store, shoppers can design their own compilation discs. The music store offers soundtracks and box sets of popular favorites.

muzicdepot.com

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From electronica to jazz to gospel, **MuzicDepot.com** has just about any in-print CD or cassette you can name, as well as information about out-of-print titles. Tell the Muzic Advisor about your tastes, and it will recommend other artists you may enjoy. The site also offers movies in the DVD and VHS formats.

powells.com

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Book lovers know **Powell's** as an independently owned megastore in

Portland, Ore. You can search Powell's renowned selection of new and used books at its Web store. Browse through the staff picks and recommendation center for more great reads.

samgoody.com

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Sam Goody offers movies, music, and more. The "more" includes software, video games, sheet music, and related books.



www.towerrecords.com

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The **Tower Records** site features a huge selection of music and videos. The search tool lets shoppers find music based on the artist, the album, or even the name of a single song. The Pulse online magazine includes reviews and interviews from pop and classical artists.



virginmega.com

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CM744S1024-133	1GB	128X72 PC133 ECC	\$2669
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CM654S256-BX2	256MB	32X64 PC100 CAS2	\$339
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CM724S256-BX2	256MB	32X72 PC100 CAS2 ECC	\$389
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Pixel Me In

BY LYNN GINSBURG

Free Web-based calendars give you and your colleagues anytime, anywhere access to your schedule.

TECHNOLOGY WAS SUPPOSED TO MAKE OUR LIVES EASIER, SO WHY ARE we still overworked? The best solution seems to be to get *more* organized. Technology provides the tools for that, and the Internet makes them collaborative, ubiquitous, and, best of all, free. Online calendars offer a rich variety of features for scheduling meetings, appointments, to-do items, reminders, and events.

One of their best uses is coordinating the schedules of those in your workgroup. (You can still keep your calendar private if you choose to.) Because these services are browser-based, you can access your calendar from any Web-enabled computer.

The potential downside of these calendars is if you lose access to the Internet, you can't access your calendar. The two we looked at provide a partial remedy by letting you synchronize with your desktop or Palm calendar, so you can view the calendar offline.

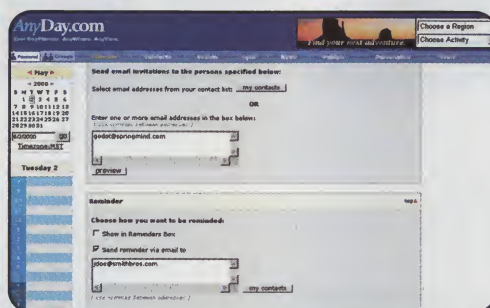
ANYDAY.COM

AnyDay.com's interface is clean, well-organized, and easy to use. Unlike schedulers that try to be all things to all people, AnyDay focuses on providing a full-featured calendar.

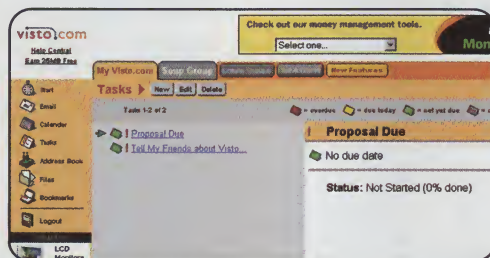
On the left side, you'll see color-coded to-do items and a large tabbed calendar that displays daily, weekly, monthly, or yearly views. Various icons representing tasks are clearly displayed, with brief descriptions.

When you set up an appointment or meeting in AnyDay, you can schedule the event to recur (for instance, a weekly staff meeting every Monday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.), send out e-mail invitations, and send yourself a reminder that alerts you anywhere from a half hour to three weeks beforehand.

Any reminder you set up can also be scheduled to repeat. You can assign to-do items priorities, which appear in different colors according to whether they're future, current, or overdue items. One thing you can't do is schedule them to recur. To do that, you



AnyDay.com's appointment feature lets you send automatic e-mail invitations and schedule appointments to recur.



To set up and view to-do items in Visto, you must enter a separate Tasks module.

have to use the appointment feature.

If you download and install AnyDay's Harmony synchronization program, you can import or export your to-do lists, reminders, calendar, and address book to Outlook, Lotus Organizer, Act, and GoldMine, as well as Palm and Windows Pocket PC handhelds. (At press time, AnyDay entered an agreement to be purchased by Palm. The companies said the combination would produce

additional features for AnyDay, including wireless access and improved synchronization with other PDAs and PIMs.)

This advertiser-supported service is free, and there are no fee-based features. Although you'll see banner ads and several smaller ads onscreen, they're unobtrusive.

VISTO

Visto (www.visto.com) offers a wider variety of services than AnyDay, including file storage (15MB for a personal account, 25MB for a group account, and \$25 per year for an additional 25MB), Web-bookmark storage, and a universal inbox for all your e-mail accounts.

Using Visto's Vogo service, you can retrieve appointments, events, and contact information by phone. The first 10 minutes per month are free; thereafter you pay 15 cents per minute.

Visto's calendar interface isn't as impressive as AnyDay's. Though you can add appointments, tasks, and reminders in much the same way, they're not as accessible or well-organized. What's more, you have to exit to the Tasks module to see your to-do items, instead of being able to see them all in one view, as you can in AnyDay.

But what Visto lacks in its calendar, it makes up for with additional services. One of the most innovative is the ability to view your calendar, tasks, e-mail, and address book from a wireless Web phone.

Visto's Assistant software lets you synchronize with Outlook, Act, or Lotus Organizer. Palm synchronization requires third-party software, but Assistant works with Palm VII organizers to forward e-mail to Palm's iMessenger application. Like AnyDay, Visto is ad-supported, but its ads are even less obtrusive than AnyDay's.

ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

Plenty of shareware applications let you perform many of the same tasks as these two e-services. You can even use some over a network. Also, if your company uses Outlook or Lotus Notes, you probably already have access to a scheduler and organizer. If you're a one-person operation, applications bundled with your PC may offer all the scheduling and organizing functionality you need. But if your company is too small for an enterprise e-mail solution and too large for a stand-alone application, consider the anytime, anywhere accessibility and group-calendaring features of one of these two Web apps may be just what you need. ▼

E-Commerce Sites

Learn to Talk

BY NANCY A. LANG

Light-years ago (in Internet time), all you had to do to secure venture capital was put "dot com" after your name. Now that the party is over and IPO prices have hurtled south, sites that sell must be attentive to customer needs if they expect shoppers to buy—and buy again.

The key is to think like a brick-and-mortar operation: Never let a customer leave in frustration after wandering your space unassisted. Technology alone can't take the place of human interaction, at least not yet. Sites that accept this retailing reality are incorporating some form of live customer support, whether it's text chat, voice over IP (VOIP), customer callback, or a combination of the three. Here's a look at some companies that provide the technology that every successful e-commerce site will offer before long. All your visitors need to take advantage of these services are speakers, a microphone or headset, and a video camera.

**Live customer support
is becoming an essential
element of success.**

EFUSIONwww.efusion.com

By placing eFusion's Push to Talk button on their sites, e-commerce companies can initiate a telephone call between a shopper and a customer-service representative. Once connected, the customer and the representative can share pages of graphics while they talk, without having to disconnect from the Internet. The representative can direct the flow by pushing pages to the customer.

"A customer who lacks confidence in a company can simply click a button and receive the verbal reassurance necessary to continue," says Jeff Gaus, eFusion's vice president of marketing. The ability to talk to a customer also provides up-sell and cross-sell opportunities and decreases

shopping-cart abandonment, Gaus says. "A rental car company, for example, can communicate with affinity-club members to up-sell them to the next-size model, or [encourage them] to purchase a cell-phone or GPS option."

Backed by Intel and Microsoft, eFusion is built on the Windows NT operating system and SQL Server database. Although the technology uses the Web to originate telephone calls, VOIP is not the primary connection option. "We call it 'voice over anything,'" says Gaus. eFusion can also embed a Push to Talk button within an e-mail message.

Because VOIP doesn't penetrate most firewalls, eFusion also offers a Call Me Now button. Customers click the button, enter their phone numbers, and wait for a call over a standard phone line. The button can also be embedded in banner ads and Internet Yellow Pages directories.

Pricing is based on a fixed charge to establish a call, plus a metered rate based on the duration of the call. The average call lasts 3 minutes and costs \$1.



LIVEPERSON

www.liveperson.com

LivePerson's service is limited to text chat. By clicking a button, a customer connects to a LivePerson server. This launches a chat window through which a customer-service operator initiates secure, one-on-one text chat with the user. Your customer is unaware that the application rests on a third-party server, according to Larry Wasserman, vice president of marketing.

The service requires no hardware or software installation, no dedicated servers, and no ongoing maintenance. Also, there are no complicated platform integration issues to overcome. And because the service uses HTTP protocols, it can be used from behind corporate firewalls.

The one-time setup fee of \$1,000 includes account activation, plus operator and administrator training. Then there's a monthly license fee of \$250 per operator seat.

Wasserman says the company isn't offering VOIP. "The technology is not 100 percent there yet," he says. "With multiple VOIP, you begin to have bandwidth issues."

WEBTELECOM

www.webtele.com

WebTelecom has resolved not to leave anything out, offering text chat, VOIP, co-browsing, and two-way video. When a customer clicks the Talk to a Salesperson button, the call goes to WebTelecom's servers. Its queue-management system (QMS) routes the call to the next available agent at your company. Once the connection is enabled, WebTelecom drops off, and the call becomes point-to-point contact between your agent and the customer. WebTelecom checks the connection periodically, returning the agent to the queue (ready for another call) once the call is complete.

The service also offers co-browsing, meaning the agent sees what the surfer sees. If the user has an H.323-compatible application such as NetMeeting, a WebTelecom applet invokes that application to voice- and video-enable the session. Users can disable this feature to use only text chat and voice.

WebTelecom's premium service, including voice, video, and call-center-management tools, costs \$50 per month, per seat, with no

installation fee. The basic charge for text chat and co-browsing is \$25 per month, per seat.

In beta at press time, the service is scheduled to launch by the time you read this. Features in the planning stage include outsourced call-center services for small companies that don't have customer-service representatives. The pricing for this service is not yet final.

COMMERCEKEY.COM

commercekey.com

Companies looking for a one-stop shop can turn to CommerceKey.com. The e-commerce host provides outsourced customer support as part of its offerings, but because the service is not VOIP-enabled, it's restricted to text chat.

A chat session can be invoked in one of two ways. If the system senses a customer is lingering on a page too long, it automatically opens a chat window and asks if the customer needs assistance. Customers can also initiate a chat session by clicking a button. "The service is transparent to the consumer," says Eric Pullman, CEO. "They don't know they're not talking to the e-tailer's people."

"The beautiful thing about outsourcing is you don't have to have a dedicated staff of customer-service representatives."

CommerceKey assigns one customer-service agent to a maximum of three e-tailers.

The service costs anywhere from \$60 to \$150 a month for a basic storefront. The live customer-support component costs between \$28 and \$32 per hour, or 95 cents per minute, an inexpensive way for a small e-tailer to dip a toe into live customer service.

Future offerings will include a button a shopper can click for a call back. This way, you're not paying line charges while a customer sits on hold.

Services like these give consumers the same kind of experience they're used to in the physical world. According to Jupiter Communications, 90 percent of online shoppers want some form of human interaction. And it doesn't just benefit the consumer, it benefits the e-commerce vendor, too. A study by Anderson Consulting reveals 88 percent of online orders are abandoned at the shopping-cart stage, and Jupiter Communications' research indicates companies can boost profits by almost 100 percent by retaining just 5 percent more customers.

"Companies have told us they've seen a sixfold increase in terms of closure ratio," says eFusion's Gaus. But revenue is not the only thing that's prompting organizations to add these services to their sites. They're also doing it to support their brand and establish and maintain customer loyalty. ▼

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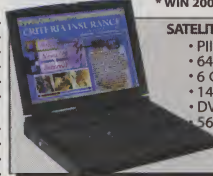
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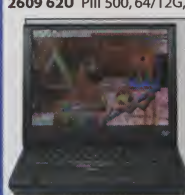
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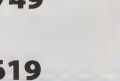
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LAN

Multimedia is more than just a flashy term—it can add a lot to your network. Shared applications and whiteboarding collaborations tools let users work on the same files simultaneously. Add videoconferencing, and you can deliver multimedia presentations to remote LANs or conduct classes on a new corporate application. If your CEO is delivering a message to the media, your users can watch live footage right on their computers. It's only natural that such capabilities be extended to LANs and the Internet, but this must be done without overtaxing your existing installation.

Multimedia content is nothing new to users on your LAN. They've probably already installed Flash, RealPlayer, Apple's QuickTime, or Microsoft's Windows Media Player to take advantage of Web content. But delivering audio and video over a LAN can be more of a challenge than over the Internet. If a user exceeds the Internet's capacity to deliver multimedia, that person may wait longer or perhaps never receive the content, but it usually won't affect other Internet traffic. On your network, though, heavy traffic can

degrade the entire network's performance—and multimedia is definitely a bandwidth hog.

Each of the many different multimedia applications may work differently on your LAN. The challenge is to understand how these applications will affect the network and to keep them within your network's current limitations—or at the least, to manage the transition properly.

DIRECTING TRAFFIC

Multimedia traffic can reduce quality of service not only by soaking up bandwidth (the amount of data that can be pushed across your network in a given time), but also by clogging hubs and routers. Every application uses some bandwidth, obviously, but even without the applications, your hubs, switches, and routers use up bandwidth as they communicate with one another, maintaining the network.

Multimedia apps can add from 100Kbps to 100Mbps of traffic. To anticipate their impact, you must estimate the increase in demand, starting with your current average and peak load. (See the sidebar "Baseline Your LAN.") You must then account for

existing and planned applications, type of content, number of users, frequency of use, growth plans, even network topology. The topology and particular configuration of hubs, switches, and routers can have a dramatic impact on performance.

Application vendors can tell you about their products' bandwidth requirements, allowing you to project the load after multimedia apps are running. Once you get a feel for the amount of network traffic a given app generates, you can work on ways to improve its performance on your LAN.

An obvious way to improve bandwidth is by upgrading from 10Mbps to 100Mbps Ethernet (if you haven't already). Also effective is changing from Ethernet hubs, which are shared networks, to Ethernet switches, which aren't. If neither option is within your budget, consider lower-quality applications that use less bandwidth, or add multimedia capabilities on a slower schedule.

Fast Ethernet (100Mbps) is ideal for most multimedia solutions and is affordable by today's standards. While some clients can get away with 10Mbps, the network backbone should always use Fast Ethernet.

baseline your LAN

Before you implement multimedia, you need to determine whether your network can handle the extra load. To do this you need to gather statistics about your network. This procedure, known as baselining, helps you determine the effect a multimedia application will have on your network.

Baselining typically takes several days. Ideally, you'll capture peak usage at various times of day so you understand how your equipment works under stress. Server baseline statistics should include server, memory, disk, and average processor utilization. General network baseline statistics should include peak and average network utilization, and the average number of errors and collisions.

To collect network statistics, you can use network analyzers (sniffers), or network-monitoring tools based on Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP). You could also use the utilities that come with Windows NT Server: Performance Monitor and Network Monitor capture server statistics and provide some network-utilization monitoring. Even the collision indicators on an Ethernet hub can indicate the number of errors typical during peak loads. (Just ignore the funny looks you get while staring at the lights on the equipment.)

You may find your equipment is already overstressed or bottlenecked, or that you have an exorbitant amount of errors on your network. You should fix these problems before you install an application that could make a bad situation worse. Even if you find nothing wrong with your network, you've seen for yourself how it behaves when it's operating normally. ▼

Multimedia applications are best deployed on networks built around Ethernet switches and routers, rather than hubs. On a hub, each workstation contends for a piece of the Ethernet bandwidth and must ensure that no other data is being transmitted in order to avoid collisions. In contrast, client workstations in a switched environment have the bandwidth for themselves, and there's no contention. On a good Ethernet switch, contention issues are handled reliably on its backplane.

Another way to increase the efficiency of your multimedia applications is to create smaller networks. Although this increases the administrative configuration required, it builds a more scalable network, better able

to handle multimedia. Separating a network of 30 users, for instance, into two or three subnets reduces network traffic on each. Many switches even let you create multiple virtual LANs (VLANs). VLANs on a switch decrease the number of clients on a subnet. One switch with 24 Ethernet ports can contain multiple VLANs or subnets.

A VLAN represents a separation of networks, because most VLAN-capable switches can't route traffic from one VLAN to another. To deal with this limitation, you'll need to purchase a router to transmit data between the VLANs.

QUALITY OF SERVICE

Quality of service (QoS) refers to the ability of an application or data transfer to perform within a specified time period. You could use a mathematical formula, but it's really a matter of user perception. If an application is slow, the user will complain; if it works properly, the user will find something else to complain about. Poor QoS in standard applications using data-transfer methods like SMTP or FTP may go unnoticed, but poor QoS in multimedia applications won't, because the video becomes choppy or the audio garbled.

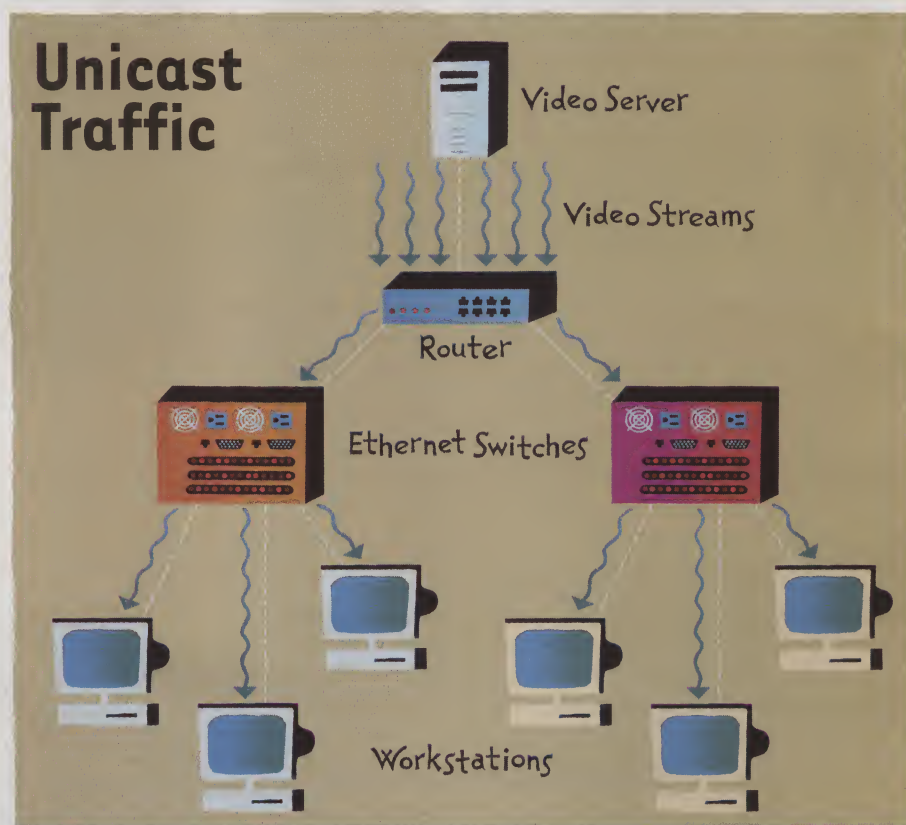
NETWORKABLE

Many things can cause poor QoS on a network: an incorrect configuration, a faulty network interface card (NIC), or improper cabling. But the two most common problems are jitter and latency. Jitter is a variable delay on the network: Sometimes network performance is good; other times it's miserable. Latency is consistently sluggish delay. It may result from an overall shortage of bandwidth or a bottleneck at a particular piece of networking equipment. For instance, a switch or router may lack sufficient processing power to handle the packets it's receiving.

To avoid jitter and latency, you can introduce buffering to your network. Hardware and software buffering smooths out load and helps multimedia applications look better. You should design your video servers to buffer data in their VGA, codec, and network adapter cards. You can also introduce buffering and packet prioritization in routers to improve QoS. This should also be an essential part of your configuration over WAN links that support multimedia.

TRAFFIC PATTERNS

Multimedia traffic is typically unicast or multicast. Multimedia can also be sent via broad-



Multimedia applications that use unicast deliver separate video streams to each computer requesting the video, essentially flooding the network with video streams.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY TIM COOK

cast, but that's very inefficient on a LAN.

Unicast traffic is strictly a point-to-point communication between two computers, for instance a file download from the Internet. When the user requests the download, the file is copied from an Internet server to the local computer. If other users request the same file, each request is handled as a separate download. Similarly, if this file were on a video server on your LAN, 10 requests to view the file (say, a video clip) would result in 10 individual video streams downloaded to the 10 clients. Too many such user requests could cripple your network.

Unicast can deliver multimedia, but it must be well-managed. For example, the network administrator may limit the maximum number of video streams for a particular multimedia application. Typically, video clips (in the form of AVIs or MPEGs) and many videoconferencing applications use unicast.

Multicast delivers a single video stream to multiple computers. It's somewhat like the broadcast traffic used on all networks, except that multicast goes only to clients requesting the stream. Network servers regularly broadcast information about services available to the network clients. Though all clients receive the broadcasts, the data involved is

tiny. But if a 2MB multimedia application were to be broadcast in this fashion, every client would have to process that fairly large application.

Multicast avoids this problem by delivering only to clients requesting the video stream. (The request is made by launching a multimedia application.) In multicast operations, the server distributes a single video stream to multiple clients, saving network resources.

Multicast operations have inherent limitations having to do with optimal number of clients on a LAN. Multimedia applications may work fine on a small network, but stumble as the clients grow in number, or as the LAN extends to other networks.

Multicast traffic is delivered over TCP/IP and involves addressing, dynamic registration, and multicast routing. Addressing refers to the IP address space allocated. Most administrators who configure and distribute IP addresses are aware of class A, B, and C address schemes, but multicast uses a completely separate one, class D, reserved for multicast traffic and allocated dynamically. You don't request class D addresses from a governing body, as you do for the others, because class D is distributed dynamically. A set of clients that respond to

NETWORKABLE

a class D address is referred to as a host group. Clients join and leave a host group

through the Internet Group Management Protocol (IGMP).

Dynamic registration also occurs through IGMP, an IP-based protocol that transmits information about multicast groups. Switches and routers keep tables of these groups in order to deliver video streams to clients recognized as group members. In other words, IGMP dynamically recognizes that certain clients can handle multicast traffic. The number of groups permitted on a LAN at any given time is restricted only by the amount of bandwidth your network can support.

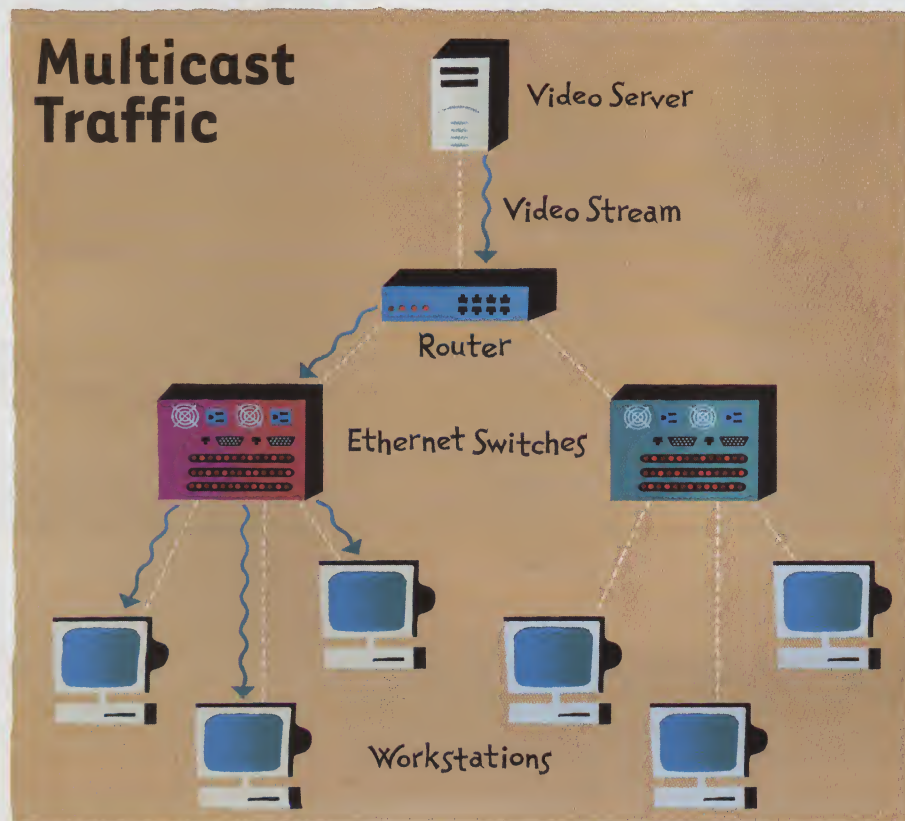
Every TCP/IP network that spans several subnets includes some form of routing. Routers learn about new subnets via routing protocols, such as RIP, EIGRP, BGP, or OSPF. Multicast traffic has separate routing protocols that allow multicast traffic to reach all IGMP-recognized clients. These include Distance Vector Multicast Routing Protocol (DVMRP), Multicast Open Shortest Path First (MOSPF), and Protocol Independent Multicast (PIM). PIM is most prevalent on LANs because it overcomes the scalability problems of the others.

PLANNING FOR MULTIMEDIA

While the details of implementing multimedia on your network can be involved, the principle is simple: Find your LAN's baseline—the current traffic profile—then estimate the added load from multimedia applications. The variance will help you decide whether to scale back your multimedia aspirations, improve your LAN incrementally, or undergo a serious upgrade. Use the suggestions above to make your network more multimedia-capable.

One thing that can't be overstated is that no network is static. Whatever your current usage pattern, it will grow as employees join the company, or as satellite offices join the company's WAN. Planning for growth is a key part of any network, and multimedia creates its own dynamic. As managers learn of the power of whiteboarding and video presentations, multimedia traffic tends to rise. And not all multimedia on a LAN is work-related.

You'll need clear guidelines and good communication with employees. Your implementation plan must also involve managers who can help ensure that new capabilities aren't overused or misused. As multimedia becomes integral to your LAN, your best response is to plan well ahead. ▼



Multicast conserves network bandwidth by sending a single stream only to those clients requesting it—up to the limit of the LAN's capacity.

LINUX FOR BUSINESS

When Linux Fits the Bill

BY LINDA SADLOUSKOS

Here's how to tell whether Linux suits your business.

IS FREE LINUX SOFTWARE A BARGAIN? THOUSANDS OF ONLINE LINUX-BASED applications can be downloaded for free, and several distributions of the OS are available. But will low initial cost translate into life-of-product savings? The businesses most likely to benefit have access to programmers who know their way around Linux, enabling them to maintain and tailor the open-source software to their needs. Still, those lacking such expertise can purchase assistance from the free-form Linux community.

The Linux operating system is far more accepted on servers, with 25 percent penetration, than on desktops, with only 4 percent, according to research firm IDC. But applications are available: Sun Microsystems just released version 5.2 of StarOffice, a productivity suite with word processing, spreadsheet, mail, drawing, and presentation capability. It can be downloaded free from www.sun.com or purchased on CD for \$9.95 (or \$39.95 including a printed manual). Corel Corp. has ported WordPerfect Office 2000 to Linux; it sells for between \$109 to \$159. CorelDraw 9 Graphics Suite should now be available, too. Corel WordPerfect 8 for Linux, Corel Photo-Paint 9 for Linux, and Corel Linux OS 1.1 can be downloaded from www.linux.corel.com.

Other free spots for intrepid Linux users include Freshmeat (www.freshmeat.net), GNOME (www.gnome.org), and SourceForge (www.sourceforge.net). The Linux community is constantly working on thousands of applications, often collectively. SourceForge, linked to VA Linux Systems, is a popular destination for open-source developers looking to collaborate.

Amerada Hess, the oil giant, for example, used open-source software, some of it free, to design a 3D modeling system to picture geologic structures in offshore areas that might contain oil or gas. Hess purchased 192 Dell 410 workstations, preloaded with Red Hat Linux, for this supercomputing operation. Jeff Davis, senior systems programmer at Hess, seeks additional online applications at www.beowulf-underground.org.

**GRAPHICAL INTERFACES AND SUPPORT**

There's been work on graphical interfaces to make Linux easier to use. Guy "Bud" Tribble, vice president of engineering at Eazel, notes that his company has designed a graphical shell with online support for Linux desktop users. The service, introduced free but with an eventual cost of about \$20 to \$40 a year, helps users locate applications appropriate for them, and aids in installation and configuration of the apps. In addition, Helix Code spearheaded development of GNOME for Linux.

Though Linux works best for businesses well-stocked with Linux developers, the OS is available in shrink-wrapped versions from

half a dozen or so distributors, and of course, is downloadable for free. Tribble likens the difference between free downloading and buying a moderately priced Linux package to acquiring bicycle parts vs. purchasing an assembled bike.

Red Hat, the largest Linux distributor, sells Linux packages for between \$30 to \$150, with a CD, documentation, and initial support. A large commercial version with more support can cost \$2,500. Many major vendors, including Oracle and IBM, have ported their software to Linux on servers or high-performance workstations—where Red Hat is focused.

Linuxcare offers technical support in choosing and installing a Linux system. The services-only company also trains both technical users and executives through its Linuxcare University, specializing in online learning.

VA Linux Systems offers total hardware and software solutions in Linux. One of its specialties is Enlightenment, a software window manager in which the system interface can be tailor-made for a customer.

"You are paying for a new functionality, or for functionality to be added to your specific system," says Jans Owen, engineering manager of the professional services division of VA Linux. "Once we create it, it's then contributed to the open-source code base."

It's that willingness to build on and constantly improve software that Linux evangelizers say is the reason their applications eventually become better than proprietary software. For example, Evolution, an e-mail application that integrates the Net with the desktop, will perform such advanced functions as indexing e-mail according to sender, and calling up mail by topic, says Nat Friedman, president of Helix Code. Gnumeric, a spreadsheet aimed at replacing Microsoft Excel, can read Excel's file format so users can keep their old documents, says Friedman. Both Evolution and Gnumeric are free. Helix Code treats software as a commodity and sells services.

According to Linuxcare, 99 percent of customers who install Linux make it part of their information system without entirely scrapping other operating systems. For small businesses, that could mean deploying Linux strategically to take advantage of its strengths in networking, Internet operations, or specialized development. Though businesses may need to pay for services to make use of "free" software, they're still getting a good deal. ▼

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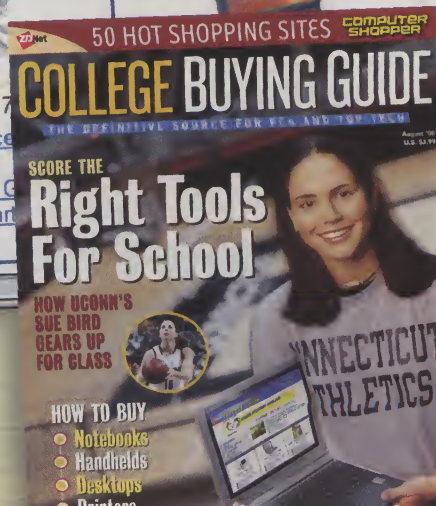
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Do You Have the Right Connections?

You need the right connections to get ahead, and that could mean a lot more than surviving a change of planes in Chicago. If you need to stay wired while you're abroad, an array of gadgets can make keeping in touch a lot easier. A few devices can relieve your notebook of some of its duties and spare you the backache of carrying it everywhere. Even if your travel plans take you only across a state line or two, several take-alongs are still worth considering.

Confusion in the air is no longer limited to ticket prices. These days the airlines are experimenting with an endless variety of consumer electronics, from personal videotape players to CD-ROM/DVD drives to whatever it takes to lure the wired traveler onboard.

Such goodies started in the front cabin, worked their way into business class, and are now trickling toward the tail section. As a result, you'll find more and more power outlets available and—depending on a mixture of supply, luck, and the mood of the flight attendant—perhaps the right cable to connect your laptop and give the batteries a rest.

To play it safe, though, add your own cable to your carry-on gadget bag. If you already have a car adapter cable (for a cigarette-lighter receptacle), a short accessory cable will adapt it for airline use. Or you can buy an all-in-one set consisting of both cables and an assortment of adapters to accommodate the power connector on many computers.

Because all-in-one often means "all except the one you need," it's a good idea to specify your computer model when ordering. Depending on your needs, prices range from under \$20 to about \$100. Also check your favorite airline's power plans. If it doesn't have any, pick another favorite.

DIMINUTIVE DINNER COMPANION

Sure, you love that laptop, but when was the last time you invited it to dinner? It's a nuisance to launch some translation software just to get you through the mysteries of a foreign menu, but if you can't tell a *choros* from a *chorizo*, bring along a battery-operated pocket scanner, run it over the mystery item, and you'll have the English equivalent at your fingertips. Or use it in reverse to show the waiter the significance of "cheeseburger." Quickwiz Technologies' Quicktionary (www.quickwiz.com/quicktionary) translates English to and from a single language (\$169.95), and the Quicktionary Multi (\$199.95) handles English, French, and German translation.

Meanwhile, back at the hotel room or in some overseas office, your laptop will likely be just as happy with either choice on the electrical menu: North American-style 110 AC volts, or overseas

220 volts. Just use the proper adapter to plug in, and as they say in New Zealand, "You're away laughing."

You'll be away crying, however, if you think the same convenience applies to all your plug-in gadgetry. Most battery chargers operate on one voltage only, and plugging a 110-volt charger into a 220-volt receptacle will damage it, and possibly you too. Some hotels offer a 110-volt receptacle in the bathroom, but don't count on it. Even if it's there, don't expect it to work. Instead, add two items to your gadget bag: a power adapter plug and a step-down transformer. The "power adapter" phrase is misleading, because the adapter has zero effect on the power delivered. It's nothing more than a physical interface to adapt your American-style plug to fit the local AC receptacle. It's all you need to get your dual-voltage PC running, but you'll also need the step-down transformer if you're packing a battery charger or other devices that don't operate on 220 volts.



If you need to verify the electrical service at your destination, Visicomm Industries offers a convenient table of specifications at www.50hz.com/pwchrt.htm and an illus-

trated list of adapter plugs at www.50hz.com/plugs.html. If you'd rather have a printed reference, Claitor's Law Books and Publishing Division offers a 30-page booklet, *Electric Current Abroad*, 1998, for \$2 with much of the same info. You can order it at www.claitors.com/prf/catalog/003-009-00673-2.html—make sure to use the odd spelling of "catalog" in the URL.

Once you know what you need, you can order the actual adapters and a transformer from iGo.com. You can request a catalog from the site or call 800-228-8374. One handy item

(#46835) is a little cube with a variety of AC plug blades. Just connect it to your American plug, then use the blade pair that fits the nearest receptacle. For safety, the others are disabled. Though bulky, it's a great tool when venturing into the unknown. Otherwise, just get the single and much smaller connector you need for the location you're visiting.

MODEM MADNESS

With your computer operational, the next trick is to get your modem to work. If you're lucky, your hotel-room phone will have a data port that accepts the ubiquitous U.S.-style RJ-11 phone plug. But you'll need a phone-plug adapter if you're working out of an overseas office that is not so equipped. Unfortunately, some 30-odd "standard" connectors are in use worldwide (some more odd than others), and some countries use two or more of them. For an interesting glimpse at the baffling variety, check out WalkAbout Travel Gear's illustrations—and of course, ordering details—at www.walkabouttravelgear.com. Also scan its great collection of travel tips. You won't find much information about gadgetry, but instead lots of "Why didn't I think of that?" ideas.

Once you've made the physical connection, you're still not home free. Among the obstacles are rotary-dial phones, and in the case of touch-tone dialing, a different set of tones than those at home. This doesn't matter if you're making a simple phone call, but if you need to press certain numbers to access voice mail or to reach an extension once connected, the home-office system won't recognize the tones it hears, and you may lose the connection. The Phone Dialer applet in Windows is no help at all: It's so "smart" that it listens for a dial tone and won't work if it



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essential business travel guide doesn't hear one, making it useless when it's needed most. For a convenient, low-tech, under-\$20 solution, bring along a pocket tone dialer from RadioShack. Just hold it to the mouthpiece and punch in the required numbers.

If you occasionally misplace your business associate ("You said we were going to meet at the fountain!"), consider a pair of TalkAbout radio phones from Motorola (www.motorola.com/talkabout). Weighing less than 6 ounces, the TalkAbout fits in your pocket and comes with a belt holster. Maximum operating range is specified at 2 miles in flat open terrain. In field tests, the TalkAbouts worked

well with one user indoors and the other within a radius of several blocks, and they also did fine on the trail—certainly better than sprinkling bread crumbs.

DIGITAL FILM

If you need to pack a digital camera on your business trip, you need a battery charger. You also need a convenient means of transferring files between camera and computer. PC Card adapters for both CompactFlash and SmartMedia cards are available for about \$30 and \$50, respectively. Or consider the FlashPath, which looks and acts like a floppy, but isn't a floppy. Just slip a SmartMedia card into the FlashPath device, and insert it into your notebook's floppy drive. Your notebook thinks it's just another floppy, and the files are immediately ready for transfer.

If your notebook doesn't have a floppy drive, but it does have a USB port, use Lexar Media's Jumpshot Connectivity Kit instead. It consists of a USB-enabled CompactFlash card and a USB interface cable. Just pop the CompactFlash card out of the camera and into the interface cable, connect the cable to the computer, and you have an instant external drive. Copy the image files to your hard drive and reuse the card for the next round of photos. For more details on the kit, go to www.lexarmedia.com. Keep in mind that not all CompactFlash cards will function with the USB interface cable, so make sure you see a "USB-enabled" logo.

MISCELLANEA

Finally, a few gadgets you already know about deserve a repeat mention so you don't accidentally leave

home without them. A random sampling of stateside hotels reveals that even when the phone has a data port, it's apt to be dead or miswired—or the phone line is digital, which is bad news (can you say "zap"?). For an analog modem. The \$39 Modem Saver Plus from iGo.com has LEDs to indicate a safe line, a polarity reversal, or a dead connection. Polarity reversals are probably a nonissue, because most old modems that had problems with such lines are long gone by now. If all is well with the jack, leave the Modem Saver in place anyway and plug the modem line into it, letting the device serve as an inline surge protector. The \$59 Modem Saver International adds a filter to eliminate the high-frequency impulse signals that some countries use for tax purposes.

Don't forget to pack an extra length of phone cable, and one of those female-to-female RJ-11 adapters. Plug both ends of that phone cable into it while on the move to protect the adapter tabs against breakage. And when you finally get settled in a room where the phone lacks a data port and is connected to a wall socket behind an immovable piece of furniture, just disconnect the phone and, if necessary, use the adapter and your own phone line as an extension. This option becomes an absolute necessity if your PC Card cable has a proprietary connector at the modem end and an RJ-11 at the other. The adapter is also handy for checking the hotel's phone cable. Disconnect the cable from the phone, plug it into the adapter, and plug your Modem Saver probe into the other end of the adapter.

There's still one more gadget to consider: an extra modem. The life span of your favorite modem is probably less than that of your computer, and an on-the-road death is never pleasant, especially if your own life depends on staying in touch. You may be able to run to the local computer store for a replacement, but only if there is a local store. If not, you'll be glad you double-packed. ▼

Travel Globally, Connect Locally

The local access number you use to log on to the Internet from your home or office would be a pricey long-distance call from the road. To avoid long-distance charges, you need to find a local number, or point of presence (POP), for the town you're visiting.

If there was ever an excuse to have an AOL or CompuServe

170 countries, but you need an ID number from Sprint and special software or scripting before you can connect, so plan ahead and visit the site for information on domestic and overseas access (www.sprintbiz.com/apps/ipdial_list).

Sometimes the best access is toll-free access. It's not really free; ISPs charge you an hourly rate to use the number (AOL and CompuServe charge \$6), but it's easier—and often cheaper—than using a local access number. You'll find toll-free numbers for ATTNet, Sprint, and other major ISPs at ZDNet (www.zdnet.com/pcmag/special/roadwarrior/ispinfo.htm).

Also consider a free ISP. Many offer local access numbers in U.S. cities and towns. Just make sure the number is local from where you're connecting. Well-known free ISPs include NetZero (www.netzero.com), AltaVista (www.zdnet.com/downloads/altavista), FreeLane (freelane.excite.com), and iFreedom.com, which serves both the United States and Canada. For more free ISPs, check out About.com's Freebies (freebies.about.com/shopping/freebies/

msub29.htm) and dotNow (www.dotnow.com).

Whichever method you choose, remember to collect phone numbers before the trip or at least one stop ahead while you still have Internet access.

For brief e-mail sessions from overseas, the easiest way to access your account is to bite the bullet and place a long-distance call to your home ISP number. A few minutes online won't cost much.

An even better option in many cities is to locate the nearest Internet café, sample the local brand of coffee, have a snack, and grab an hour of Internet time. You'll find locations, operating hours, and costs for many of the world's Internet cafés at Internet Café Guide (www.netcafeguide.com). New Zealand has 36 cafés listed, and if your travels bring you to Tahiti, drop into the Tiki Soft Café in Papeete (www.tikisoft.pf). Typical costs are about \$10 an hour; some let you check your e-mail for free, while others charge by the minute with no minimum. Many Kinko's locations (www.kinkos.com) offer Internet connections as well as docking stations, so you can print or e-mail files from your notebook.

The Internet Café Guide also lists public-access booths located in airports, convention centers, and hotels from New York to Hawaii. ▼



account, this is it. These services have more local POPs than any other ISP. If you're already an AOL member, you'll find the list of phone numbers within the service. Otherwise, check out the list of U.S. and international city access numbers at ZDNet, Computer Shopper's parent company (www8.zdnet.com/pcmag/special/roadwarrior/aolcsi.htm). Mindspring (www.mindspring.com) offers a global roaming service with close to 2,400 POPs in more than 65 countries. Sprint has dial-up connections in

Business Traveler's Survival Tips

1 MONEY MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND

Money talks, nobody walks, so if your business takes you overseas, put that WAP-enabled cell phone to work to find the latest currency-exchange rates for the country you're visiting. Oanda Corp.'s Currency Site (www.oanda.com) offers a WAP currency converter so you can get wireless updates using a phone such as the Nokia 7110.

2 PIN DOWN AN ATM MACHINE

The next best thing to money is plastic—as in an ATM card. The Visa ATM Locator (www.visa.com/pd/atm/main.html) makes it easy to find that company's ATM machines; just type in a street, building name, city, or postal code, and a map appears showing the ATM locations. You can also download software for a Palm VII that lets you find Visa ATMs wirelessly via Palm.net. MasterCard International has a similar ATM locator service (www.mastercard.com/atm) that lists ATM addresses for international locations and includes maps for ATM locations in North America.

3 YOU LEFT HOME WITHOUT IT?

If you travel with an American Express card, be sure to bookmark the company's International Service Centers locator page (home4.americanexpress.com/cust_serv/international/phone.asp). The centers can help you get mail and traveler's checks while you're traveling, and make travel arrangements.

4 AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO TIP THE PAPER BOY

Want to bone up on Belgium before your meeting in Antwerp? Go to Escape Artist's World Press & Media Index (www.escapeartist.com/media/media.htm) for online access to hundreds of international newspapers.

5 IS IT CHILLY IN CHILE?

Check out the weather before you get there, so you can pack accordingly for your next business trip. CNN offers current international weather and forecasts (www.cnn.com/weather). For weather in U.S. cities, take a look at EarthWatch's Weather on Demand (www.earthwatch.com). Another very useful site, OnlineWeather.com

(www.onlineweather.com), lets you use your WAP phone to get weather reports. The Weather Channel (www.weather.com) also offers wireless weather via your pager or digital PCS phone at prices starting at 6 cents per day. If you're addicted to TV weather reports, tune into the Weather Channel's audio/visual forecasts for U.S. cities.

6 OVERSEAS CYBER SCHMOOZE

The handy Biztravelclub (www.biztravelclub.com) offers the business traveler a virtual home away from home. Become a member (free for now), and post your itinerary before you travel. When you get to your destination, you can check out which other Biztravelclub members are in town, do a little networking, and maybe find a great restaurant or strike some new business deals.

7 TIMELY PREPARATIONS

Time is on your side if you use Time and Date's World Clock (www.timeanddate.com) to see the time differences between locations worldwide. The site has a handy meeting

planner you can use to set up chats crossing time zones—without waking anyone in the middle of the night.

8 SPEAK LIKE THE NATIVES

Impress your overseas clients or customers by learning to say a few phrases in their native tongue. Drop in at TravLang (www.travlang.com) and take a few online language lessons. The site uses RealAudio so you can hear exactly how to pronounce the formerly foreign phrases. TravLang's many translating dictionaries will also come in handy when poring over those e-mails written in Dutch, Danish, Finnish, Swedish, Afrikaans, and Czech.

9 NO, A CENTIGRAM ISN'T AN INSECT

A miss is as good as a mile if you're traveling in a country that uses the metric system—and most do. VirtualTourist (www.virtualtourist.com) has a handy metric conversion tool, so you'll know exactly how many kilometers it is to your next meeting.

10 KNOW WHEN NOT TO WORK

Wonder why nobody showed up for your big meeting in Bombay? Maybe it's because you scheduled it for August 15, Indian Independence Day. The Worldwide Holiday & Festival Site (www.holidayfestival.com) lists holidays and public festivities for more than 100 countries, territories, and regions.

11 DON'T OFFEND THE FRENCH

You thought your French clients were just plain rude, but maybe it's because you don't know how to act in France. The Business Travel Etiquette Club (www.traveletiquette.com) will help you learn the business customs, protocols, and rules of French etiquette. ▼



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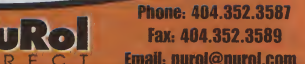
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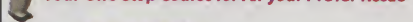
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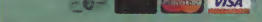
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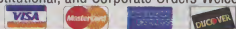
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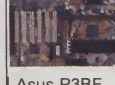

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SLOT 1 VIA CHIPSET MOTHERBOARDS

 <p>\$109 ABIT</p> <p>ABIT VT6X4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VIA Apollo Pro133A/596B chipset Intel Pentium III 450-800MHz 133 / 100 / 66 MHz FSB support 1 x AGP4X / 5 x PCI / 2 x ISA 3 x DIMM, up to 1.5GB, ATA66 ATX form factor, ca. 305x220mm Software menu II, Hardware monitoring <p>Without CPU \$109</p> <p>With Intel Pentium III Processor:</p> <p>500MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2 \$339</p> <p>550MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2 \$351</p> <p>600MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2 \$382</p> <p>600MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$375</p> <p>667MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$392</p> <p>700MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$472</p> <p>733MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$520</p> <p>750MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$581</p> <p>800MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$664</p>	 <p>\$109 ASUS</p> <p>Asus P3V4X</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VIA Apollo Pro133A/596B chipset Intel Pentium III 450-800MHz 133 / 100 / 66 MHz FSB support 1 x AGP4X / 8 x PCI / 1 x ISA 3 x DIMM, up to 2GB, ATA66 ATX form factor, 305x192mm Hardware monitoring, AC97 <p>Without CPU \$109</p> <p>With Intel Pentium III Processor:</p> <p>500MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2 \$339</p> <p>550MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2 \$351</p> <p>600MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$382</p> <p>600MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$375</p> <p>667MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$392</p> <p>700MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$472</p> <p>733MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$520</p> <p>750MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$581</p> <p>800MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$664</p>	 <p>\$78 AOpen</p> <p>AOpen AX63 Pro</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VIA Apollo Pro133A/596B chipset Intel Pentium III 450-800MHz 133 / 100 / 66 MHz FSB support 1 x AGP2X / 5 x PCI / 2 x ISA 3 x DIMM, up to 1.5GB, ATA66 Support 32bit of FSB speeds <p>Without CPU \$78</p> <p>With Intel Pentium III Processor:</p> <p>500MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2 \$308</p> <p>550MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2 \$320</p> <p>600MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$351</p> <p>600MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$344</p> <p>667MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$351</p> <p>700MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$441</p> <p>733MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$489</p> <p>750MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$550</p> <p>800MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$633</p>	 <p>\$89 FIC</p> <p>FIC KA 31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VIA Apollo Pro133A/596B chipset Intel Pentium III 450-800MHz 133 / 100 / 66 MHz FSB support 1 x AGP4X / 3 x PCI / 1 x ISA 3 x DIMM, up to 768MB, ATA66 microATX form factor, 244x226mm Hardware Monitoring <p>Without CPU \$89</p> <p>With Intel Pentium III Processor:</p> <p>500MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2 \$319</p> <p>550MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2 \$331</p> <p>600MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$362</p> <p>600MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$355</p> <p>667MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$362</p> <p>700MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$452</p> <p>733MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$500</p> <p>750MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$561</p> <p>800MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$644</p>	 <p>\$109 TYAN</p> <p>Tyan Trinity 400 S1854S</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VIA Apollo Pro133A/596B chipset Intel Pentium III 450-800MHz Intel Celeron 266-533MHz 133 / 100 / 66 MHz FSB support 1 x AGP4X / 6 x PCI / 1 x ISA 3 x DIMM, up to 768MB, ATA66 ATX form factor, 305x220mm Supports both Slot1 and Socket370 CPUs <p>Without CPU \$109</p> <p>With Intel Pentium III Processor:</p> <p>500MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2 \$339</p> <p>550MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2 \$351</p> <p>600MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$382</p> <p>600MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$375</p> <p>667MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$382</p> <p>700MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$472</p> <p>733MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$520</p> <p>750MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$581</p> <p>800MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$664</p>
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SLOT 1 - INTEL CHIPSET MOTHERBOARDS

 <p>\$179 AOpen</p> <p>AOpen AX 6C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intel i820 "Carmine" chipset Intel Pentium III 450-800MHz 133 / 100 MHz FSB support 1 x AGP4X / 5 x PCI / 1 x AMR 3 x DIMM, up to 2GB, ATA66 Supports RAMBUS PC660, 700 & 800 ATX form factor, 305x210mm Hardware monitoring, AC97 sound <p>Without CPU \$179</p> <p>With Intel Pentium III Processor:</p> <p>500MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2 \$409</p> <p>550MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2 \$421</p> <p>600MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$452</p> <p>600MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$445</p> <p>667MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$452</p> <p>700MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$542</p> <p>733MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$590</p> <p>750MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$651</p> <p>800MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$734</p>	 <p>\$149 SOYO</p> <p>Soyo SY6-ICA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intel i820 "Carmine" chipset Intel Pentium III 450-800MHz 133 / 100 MHz FSB support 1 x AGP4X / 5 x PCI / 1 x AMR 2 x DIMM, up to 1GB, ATA66 Supports RAMBUS PC660, 700 & 800 ATX form factor, 305x210mm Hardware monitoring, AC97 sound <p>Without CPU \$149</p> <p>With Intel Pentium III Processor:</p> <p>500MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2 \$379</p> <p>550MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2 \$391</p> <p>600MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$422</p> <p>600MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$415</p> <p>667MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$422</p> <p>700MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$512</p> <p>733MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$560</p> <p>750MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$621</p> <p>800MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$704</p>	 <p>\$115 FIC</p> <p>FIC KW 15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intel i810E "Whitney" chipset Intel Pentium III 450-800MHz 133 / 100 / 66 MHz FSB support 5 x PCI / 1 x ISA 2 x DIMM, up to 512MB, ATA66 ATX form factor, 200x310mm On-board Video, AC97 sound <p>Without CPU \$115</p> <p>With Intel Pentium III Processor:</p> <p>500MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2 \$345</p> <p>550MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2 \$357</p> <p>600MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$388</p> <p>600MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$381</p> <p>667MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$388</p> <p>700MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$478</p> <p>733MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$526</p> <p>750MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$587</p> <p>800MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$670</p>	 <p>\$135 ASUS</p> <p>Asus P3BF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intel i440BX chipset Intel Pentium III 266-600MHz 100 / 66 MHz FSB support 1 x AGP2X / 5 x PCI / 2 x ISA 4 x DIMM, up to 1GB, ATA/33 ATX form factor, 305x190mm Hardware monitoring, jumperless <p>Without CPU \$135</p> <p>With Intel Pentium III Processor:</p> <p>500MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2 \$365</p> <p>550MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2 \$444</p> <p>600MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$408</p> <p>600MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$401</p> <p>667MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$408</p> <p>700MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$498</p> <p>733MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$546</p> <p>750MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$607</p> <p>800MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$690</p>	 <p>\$193 ASUS</p> <p>Asus P3BF-1394</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intel i440BX chipset Intel Pentium III 266-600MHz 100 / 66 MHz FSB support 1 x AGP2X / 3 x PCI 2 x DIMM, up to 512MB, ATA/33 microATX form factor, 244x240mm High Speed IEEE 1394 Controller <p>Without CPU \$193</p> <p>With Intel Pentium III Processor:</p> <p>500MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2 \$532</p> <p>550MHz, 100MHz FSB, 512K L2 \$502</p> <p>600MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$575</p> <p>600MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$568</p> <p>667MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$575</p> <p>700MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$665</p> <p>733MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$713</p> <p>750MHz, 100MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$774</p> <p>800MHz, 133MHz FSB, 256K L2 \$857</p>
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SOCKET 7 MOTHERBOARDS

 <p>\$89 AOpen</p> <p>AOpen MX59 Pro II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VIA Apollo MVP4 chipset Intel Pentium MMX 166-233MHz AMD K6, K6-2 & K6-III 166-500MHz 100, 97, 95, 66 MHz FSB support 4 x PCI / 1 x ISA 2 x DIMM, up to 512MB, ATA66 microATX form factor, ca. 244x220mm On-board Video, AC97 sound <p>Without CPU \$89</p> <p>With Intel Pentium MMX Processor:</p> <p>P54C 233MHz \$139</p> <p>With AMD K6-2 Processor:</p> <p>K6-2 500MHz \$159</p> <p>K6-2 533MHz \$168</p> <p>K6-2 550MHz \$178</p>	 <p>\$89 DFI</p> <p>DFI K6 BV3-II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VIA Apollo MVP3+ chipset Intel Pentium MMX 166-233MHz AMD K6, K6-2 & K6-III 166-500MHz 100, 95, 66 MHz FSB support 1 x AGP / 4 x PCI / 3 x ISA 3 x DIMM, up to 768MB, ATA66 BAT form factor, ca. 250x220mm Hardware monitoring, opt. ATX power <p>Without CPU \$89</p> <p>With Intel Pentium MMX Processor:</p> <p>P54C 233MHz \$139</p> <p>With AMD K6-2 Processor:</p> <p>K6-2 500MHz \$159</p> <p>K6-2 550MHz \$178</p>	 <p>\$79 FIC</p> <p>FIC VA503+</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VIA Apollo MVP3 chipset Intel Pentium MMX 166-233MHz AMD K6, K6-2 & K6-III 166-500MHz 100, 95, 66 MHz FSB support 1 x AGP / 3 x PCI / 3 x ISA 2 x DIMM, up to 512MB, ATA66 BAT form factor, ca. 244x219mm Opt. ATX power <p>Without CPU \$79</p> <p>With Intel Pentium MMX Processor:</p> <p>P54C 233MHz \$129</p> <p>With AMD K6-2 Processor:</p> <p>K6-2 500MHz \$149</p> <p>K6-2 550MHz \$168</p>	 <p>\$79 SOYO</p> <p>Soyo SY5-EHM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VIA Apollo MVP3 chipset Intel Pentium MMX 166-233MHz AMD K6, K6-2 & K6-III 166-500MHz 100 / 66 MHz FSB support 1 x AGP / 3 x PCI / 3 x ISA 2 x DIMM, up to 512MB BAT form factor, ca. 244x219mm <p>Without CPU \$79</p> <p>With Intel Pentium MMX Processor:</p> <p>P54C 233MHz \$129</p> <p>With AMD K6-2 Processor:</p> <p>K6-2 500MHz \$149</p> <p>K6-2 550MHz \$168</p>	 <p>\$89 TYAN</p> <p>Tyan S1590</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VIA Apollo MVP3 chipset Intel Pentium MMX 166-233MHz AMD K6, K6-2 & K6-III 166-500MHz 100 / 66 MHz FSB support 1 x AGP / 4 x PCI / 3 x ISA 3 x DIMM, 2 x SIMM, up to 768MB BAT form factor, ca. 244x219mm <p>Without CPU \$89</p> <p>With Intel Pentium MMX Processor:</p> <p>P54C 233MHz \$139</p> <p>With AMD K6-2 Processor:</p> <p>K6-2 500MHz \$159</p> <p>K6-2 550MHz \$178</p>
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Monitors

Viewsonic		
VS609423A	17" CRT, 16.0" Viewable Screen Area, .27 dot pitch, 70KHz	\$229
VS609481	19" CRT, 18.0" Viewable Screen Area, .26 dot pitch, 70KHz	\$359
Princeton		
CMULTRA54	15", 13.8 viewable, 28mm dot pitch, Full digital on-screen display	\$129
CMULTRA75E	17", 16.0 viewable, .27mm dot pitch, 1280 x 1024 max res.	\$199
CMULTRA95E	19"(18.0" viewable), 0.22mm dot pitch, 1600x1200 max. res.	\$319
Philips		
PHL082981	15"(14.0" viewable), 0.28mm dot pitch, 1280x1024 maximum res.	\$119
PHL264642	17"(15.0 viewable), 0.27mm dot pitch, 1280 x 1024 res.	\$189

Video Cards

AGP CARDS		
Diamond		
DIAA200	DIAMOND S3 Savage 4 Pro 3D chipset, 8MB SDRAM, AGP 2X	\$35
DIASTEALTH	DIAMOND S3 Savage4 Pro chipset, 32MB SDRAM, 128-bit 2D, 3D graphics	\$67
DIVIPER2	DIAMOND 32MB video mem./framebuffer, AGP w/S3 Savage2000	\$159
DIA215914	DIAMOND 32MB video mem./framebuffer, AGP w/S3 Savage2000™	\$172
ATI		
ATI29699	ATI Rage 128GL 128-bit Graphics Engine, 16MB RAM, 250MHz RAMDAC	\$84
AT089744	ATI Rage 128 Pro GL 128-bit Graphics Engine, 32 MB RAM	\$139
AT194762	ATI All-In-Wonder 128, 128-bit 3D & 2D Graphics Acceleration, 32MB RAM	\$225
AT199630	ATI Rage Fury MAXX	\$209
GULLEHOT		
GUL138474	GULLEHOT 32MB, AGP 4X/2X, GEFORCE 256 NVIDIA Chipset	\$259
GUL138480	GULLEHOT 32MB, AGP 4x, GEFORCE 256 DDR Chipset	\$299
CREATIVE LABS		
BW8XDVD	Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live Value OEM	\$48
ASUS		
NEW!	Asus V7700 32MB DDR memory/framebuffer, AGP w/ NVIDIA™ GeForce2 GTS™	\$289
AGPV6800	ASUS 32MB video memory/framebuffer, AGP video card with nVidia	\$229
ASU6800DEL	32MB video memory/framebuffer, AGP w/ nVidia GeForce 256	\$299

2

Memory

ALL COMPONENTS		
SDRAM		
SDRAM PC100 Compliant		
8x64-100	PC100 compliant 64MB mem. module, SDRAM, 168-pin DIMM form factor	\$69
16x64-100	PC100 compliant 128MB mem. module, SDRAM, 168-pin DIMM form factor	\$139
32x64-100	PC100 compliant 256MB mem. module, SDRAM, 168-pin DIMM form factor	\$249
8x64-133	PC133 compliant 64MB mem. module, SDRAM, 168-pin DIMM form factor	\$69
16x64-133	PC133 compliant 128MB mem. module, SDRAM, 168-pin DIMM form factor	\$149
32x64-133	PC133 compliant 256 MB mem. module, SDRAM, 168-pin DIMM form factor	\$289
Corsair MicroSystems Memory		
CALL FOR NEW RIMM MODULES		
CMY200612	PC133 compliant 128MB mem. module, SDRAM, 168-pin DIMM form factor	\$179
CMY200614	PC133 compliant 256MB mem. module, SDRAM, 168-pin DIMM form factor	\$319
CMY200618	PC100 compliant 128MB mem. module, SDRAM, 168-pin DIMM form factor	\$169
CMY200617	PC100 compliant 64MB mem. module, SDRAM, 168-pin DIMM form factor	\$79
CMY200655	16X64C2 PC133 compliant 128MB memory module, CAS2, SDRAM type, 168-pin DIMM form factor	\$169

Cases

Antec		
ANT451945	ANTEC Super Mini Tower in translucent blue color, ATX, 250W	\$89
ANT451946	ANTEC Super Mini Tower in translucent red color, ATX, 250W	\$89
ANT512863	ANTEC Super Mini Tower in translucent black color, ATX, 250W	\$89
ANT47237AT	ANTEC File Server Tower fits ATX style motherboard, 300W, 10 bays	\$109
ENLIGHT		
EN237	Mid Tower, fits Baby ATm ATX style motherboards, 250W, 7 expansion slots	\$69
EN7200CB	Desktop, fits ATX style motherboard, 250W, 6 expansion slots	\$99
EN7200	Desktop, fits ATX style motherboard, 300W 6 expansion slots	
INWIN		
INW135728	Full Tower, fits ATX style motherboards, 300W, 11 expansion slots	\$99
INW135733	Mid Tower, fits AT style motherboards, 230W, 8 expansion slots	\$49

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Quantum Hard Drives

QU018570	QTM 10.2GB Ultra DMA/66 IDE, 2MB cache, 8.5ms access time, 7200 rpm	\$119
QU018576	QTM Fireball Plus LM 30.0GB Ultra ATA/66 IDE Hard Drive, 2MB cache, 7200 rpm	\$279
QU018562	Quantum Fireball LCT10 10.2GB	\$109

Western Digital Hard Drives

WD84AA	WD 8.4 GB Ultra DMA/66 IDE, 512KB Cache, 8.9ms access time, 5400 rpm	\$95
WD102AA	WD 10.2 GB Ultra DMA/66, 2MB Cache, 9.5ms access time, 5400 rpm	\$89
WD136AA	WD 13.6GB Ultra DMA/66, 2MB Cache, 9.5ms access time, 5400 rpm	\$115
WD205AA	WD 20.5GB Ultra DMA/66, 2MB Cache, 9.5ms access time, 5400 rpm	\$129
WD307AA	WD 30.7GB Ultra DMA/66, 2MB Cache, 9.5ms access time, 5400 rpm	\$175
WD102BA	WD 10.2GB Ultra DMA/66 IDE, 2MB cache, 8.5ms access time, 7200 rpm	\$114
WD153BA	WD 15.3GB Ultra DMA/66 IDE, 2MB cache, 9ms access time, 7200 rpm	\$139
WD205BA	WD 20.5GB Ultra DMA/66 IDE Hard Drive, 2MB cache, 9ms access time, 7200 rpm	\$162

CD-ROM Drives

MITSUMI48X	MITSUMI 48x Speed EIDE/ATAPI CD-ROM drive, internal	\$49
TE839057	TEAC 40x Speed EIDE/ATAPI CD-ROM drive, internal	\$73
NEW!	DELTA52X DELTA 52x Speed EIDE/ATAPI CD-ROM drive, internal	\$40
KWT005637	KENWOOD 72x Speed EIDE/ATAPI CDROM internal	\$129

DVD-ROM Drives

NEW!	BW8XDVD CREATIVE PC-DVD™ 8X OEM 8X, 40X CD-R, EIDE, Interface, internal	\$153
NEW!	BW742516 CREATIVE 2X DVD-ROM, 16X CD-R, SCSI Interface	\$279
BW007984	CREATIVE 8X, 40X CD-R, EIDE Interface	\$229
HTG500BV	HITACHI 8X, 40X CD-R, EIDE Interface	\$169
PIDVD115	PIONEER 16X, 40X CD-R EIDE Interface	\$179

CD-R/CDR-W Drives

BW742525	CREATIVE CDRW kit w/MP3+ soundcard & PCWorks FourPointSurround™ Speakers	\$279
TX225819	PLEXTOR 32x read, 8x write, & 4x re-write internal; 4MB buffer, ATAPI-4 / E-IDE	\$239
TX521311	PLEXTOR 32x read, 12x write, & 4x re-write internal; 4MB buffer, Ultra SCSI (50-pin)	\$359
TE084417	TEAC 24 speed read, 8 speed write, CD-R Recorder, CAV, 150ms seek, Fast SCSI-2	\$259
TEAC54E	TEAC 32x read, 4x write, & 4x re-write internal, 2MB buffer, IDE/ATAPI interface	\$209
TO521310	TOSHIBA 24x read, 4x write, & 4x re-write, 4.8x DVD	\$256

Sound Cards

CREATIVE LABS		
BWSBLIVE	CREATIVE 3D PCI, 4 speaker support	\$59
BW3711000	CREATIVE 16-bit stereo, PCI, 5-48KHz sampling & playback rates	\$29
BW742493	CREATIVE 3D, PCI, 5-48KHz sampling & playback rates, EMU101K MIDI chipset	\$69
BW742520	CREATIVE 3D, PCI, 512-voice wavetable, EAX & DirectSound API	\$89
BW742521	CREATIVE 3D, PCI, 512-voice wavetable, EAX & DirectSound API	\$89
BW742524	CREATIVE 3D, PCI, front panel access, EMU10K1 digital signal processor	\$189
DIA007963	DIAMOND 3D, PCI. Uses Sensaura's MacroFX™ & EnvironmentFX™	\$69
SI171812	SIIG 16-bit stereo soundcard, ISA interface, plug'n play compliant	\$25
SI1751741	SIIG 32-bit PCI stereo soundcard with 32 voice hardware wavetable	\$29
SI1804777	SIIG 32-bit stereo soundcard with 64voice PCI	\$32
TTB202792	TURTLE BEACH WaveTracing™ technology, 3D audio & stereo S/PDIF digital output	\$59
MONTEGO	TURTLE BEACH 3D PCI XTREAM surround sound card	\$29

Keyboards & Mice

ACE788937	ACER 105-Key Keyboard with Hot Keys, Win95 compatible	\$20
KEY235530	KEYTRONIC 110 key with 19 programmable keys	\$35
LT008036	LOGITECH 104key keyboard with customizable hot keys ps2 & at	\$25
LT305901	LOGITECH 104 keyboard spill resistant at/ps2	\$19
LT332651	LOGITECH PS/2 mouse w/scroll button, includes serial adapter	\$19
LT242502	LOGITECH PS/2 & USB wheel mouse includes programmable 3rd button	\$35
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Capacity	Speed	Buffer	Part Number	Int.
10.2GB	512k	5400	ST310212A	\$85
10.2GB	2MB	7200	ST310210A	\$116
15.3GB	512k	5400	ST315323A	\$99
15.3GB	2MB	7200	ST315320A	\$125
20.4GB	2MB	7200	ST320420A	\$149
20.4GB	512k	5400	ST320423A	\$109
30.6GB	2MB	7200	ST330630A	\$195



Capacity	Speed	Buffer	Part Number	Int.
7.5GB	512k	5400	WDAC75AA	\$79
10.2GB	512k	5400	WDAC102AA	\$89
10.2GB	2MB	7400	WDAC102BA	\$109
15.3GB	512k	5400	WDAC153AA	\$105
15.3GB	2MB	7200	WDAC153BA	\$129
20.5GB	512k	5400	WDAC205AA	\$115
20.5GB	2MB	7200	WDAC205BA	\$149
30.0GB	512k	5400	WDAC307AA	\$155
45.0GB	2MB	5400	WDAC450AA	\$209



Capacity	Speed	Buffer	Part Number	Int.
15.3GB	512K	5400	M31536U2	\$95
20.0GB	2MB	7200	M52049U4	\$153
20.4GB	512K	5400	M32049U3	\$109
30.0GB	2MB	7200	M53073U6	\$195
30.7GB	512K	5400	M33073U4	\$139
40.0GB	2MB	7200	M54098U8	\$249
61.4GB	2MB	5400	M96147U8	\$265

HARD DRIVE ACCESSORIES

ULTRA ATA		
Cable Select Cable, no more changing Master/Slave switches!	(GSCISEL)	\$12
Parallel Port External Case	(PPCASEHD)	\$89
GSI External HotPort IDE Case, true IDE transfer rates	(HOTPORT)	\$129
ULTRA ATA-66		
ATA-66 2 Drive 80 conductor cable	(CABLEATA66)	\$9
ATA-66 PCI controller card	(ULTRA66)	\$39
Promise Ultra ATA-66 RAID	(FASTTRAK66)	\$95
ULTRA-2 SCSI		
External Active terminator	(ULTRA2TERMA)	\$29
3' External Ultra-2 to Ultra-2 cable	(U2TOU2-3)	\$25
ULTRA WIDE SCSI		
Tekram PCI Ultra Wide controller kit	(DC390F)	\$72
3' External Ultra Wide to Ultra Wide cable	(SC3TOSC3-3)	\$19
ULTRA 160 SCSI <i>Call for more.</i>		
Adaptec PCI Ultra 160 64 bit controller	(A29160)	\$299
Adaptec PCI Ultra 160 64 bit dual channel	(A39160)	\$349
DPT PCI Ultra 160 RAID 32 bit controller	(PM1564U3)	\$469

You want it? We've got it! HOT, Fast 1394 products at www.megahaus.com/1394



Capacity	Speed	Buffer	Part Number	Int.
7.5GB	512K	5400	QML07500LC	\$83
10.2GB	2MB	7200	QMP10200LM	\$99
15.0GB	512K	5400	QML15000LC	\$115
15.0GB	2MB	7200	QMP15000LM	\$125
20.0GB	512K	5400	QML20000LC	\$125
20.5GB	2MB	7200	QMP20500LM	\$155
30.0GB	512K	5400	QML30000LC	\$170
30.0GB	2MB	7200	QMP30000LM	\$189



Capacity	Speed	Buffer	Part Number	Int.
15.3GB	2MB	7200	07N3927	\$119
20.5GB	512K	5400	07N3924	\$115
20.5GB	2MB	7200	07N3928	\$165
30.7GB	2MB	7200	07N3929	\$199
46.1GB	2MB	7200	07N3931	\$279
61.4GB	2MB	7200	07N3933	\$459
76.8GB	2MB	7200	07N3935	\$575

2.5" LAPTOP DRIVES



Capacity	Height	RPM	Model	Price
6.0GB	9.5mm	4200	MK6015MAP	\$143
10.0GB	9.5mm	4200	MK1016GAP	\$Call
12.1GB	9.5mm	4200	MK1214GAP	\$199
18.1GB	12.5mm	4200	MK1814GAV	\$325
20.0GB	9.5mm	4200	MK2016MAP	\$Call



Capacity	Height	RPM	Model	Price
5.0GB	9.5mm	4200	07N4391	\$135
10.0GB	9.5mm	4200	07N4390	\$229
20.0GB	12.5mm	4200	07N4388	\$349
30.0GB	12.5mm	4200	07N4392	\$529



Capacity	Height	RPM	Model	Price
6.0GB	9.5mm	4200	DK23AA-60	\$134
12.0GB	12.7mm	4200	DK23AA-12	\$185

LAPTOP ACCESSORIES

Diskmanager partitioning software (DISKMANAGER)	\$12
2.5" to 3.5" adapter kit IDE/SCSI (IDEKIT-2.5/SCSIKIT-2.5)	\$15
Parallel/PCMCIA ext drive case for 2.5" IDE (PPCASE2.5/PCMCIA2.5)	\$69/\$119
Int/Ext PC Card reader for desktop PC (PCD220/PED220)	\$79
Hard Drive Caddies	Just \$45 each!

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These external drives easily interface with your computer's parallel printer port. They also have a pass through connector so you can use your printer at the same time.

32X CD-ROM	#BACKPAC32X	\$165
32X CD-ROM w/sound	#BACKPAC32XS	\$195
8GB Hard Drive	#BACKPACK8G	\$295
4x4x20 CD Rewritable	#BACKPAC4X20	\$285

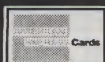


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HARD DRIVES

Quantum

18.2 GB \$329
SCSI Ultra 160 - Blistering Fast! **\$459 Ext.**
 Int. (XC318400LW) (XC318400LWX)



Atlas IV

Seagate

30.6 GB \$195
Ultra ATA/66 IDE
 (ST330630A) Int.



Barracuda

10,15 & 20 GB
 Also Available

IBM

18.2 GB \$355
Ultra 160 SCSI - 160MB/second! **\$485 Ext.**
 Int. (07N3110) (07N3110X)



UltraStar 18ES

DVD RAM DRIVES

TOSHIBA

1x16x2 \$409 Bare SCSI-2 Drive
 Reads DVD-ROM, DVD-R, DVD Video, Video CD,
 CD-ROM, CD Audio, CD-R & CD-RW disks. 2MB buffer
 Stores up to 5.2GB on a single disk. (SDW1111)



Panasonic

1x20x2 \$589 Complete SCSI-2 Kit
 Reads DVD-ROM, DVD-R, CD-R & CD-RW disks.
 2MB buffer. W/soft. & 2.6GB DVD disk. (LFD103U)



CREATIVE

1x16x2 \$279 Complete SCSI-2 Kit
 Reads DVD-ROM, DVD-R, CD-R & CD-RW disks.
 Stores up to 5.2GB on a single disk. (CLDVDRAM)



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 for your ballot today. Help us by casting
 your vote online before October 1st and
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SCA HARD DRIVES

Seagate

SCA & SCA 160 (Single Connector Attachment)

Capacity	Buffer	Speed	Part Number	Int.
9.2GB	2MB	7200	ST39236LC	\$219
9.2GB	4MB	7200	ST39236LCV	\$239
9.2GB	4MB	10,000	ST39204LC	\$269
18.2GB	4MB	10,000	ST318404LC	\$395
18.4GB	2MB	7200	ST318436LC	\$325
18.4GB	4MB	7200	ST318436LCV	\$335
36.7GB	4MB	10,000	ST336704LC	\$659
36.7GB	16MB	10,000	ST336704LCV	\$679
73.4GB	4MB	10,000	ST173404LC	\$1189
73.4GB	16MB	10,000	ST173404LCV	\$1219

Quantum

SCA & SCA ULTRA-2 Single Connector Attachment

Capacity	Buffer	Speed	Part Number	Int.
9.1GB	4MB	7200	XC309100SCA	\$199
9.2GB	8MB	10,000	TY309200SCA	\$339
18.3GB	4MB	7200	XC318400SCA	\$329
18.4GB	8MB	10,000	TY318400SCA	\$515
36.4GB	4MB	7200	XC336400SCA	\$659
36.7GB	8MB	10,000	TY336700SCA	\$899
73.4GB	8MB	10,000	TY373400SCA	\$1599

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 Solutions, Solid State Disk Drives,
 Processors, Motherboards and More!**

ULTRA/160M SCSI HARD DRIVES

Quantum

ULTRA 160 SCSI (up to 160MB/sec)

Capacity	Buffer	Speed	Part Number	Int.	Ext.
9.1GB	4MB	7200	XC309100LW	\$199	\$329
9.2GB	8MB	10,000	TY309200LW	\$339	\$479
18.3GB	4MB	7200	XC318400LW	\$329	\$459
18.4GB	8MB	10,000	TY318400LW	\$515	\$645
36.4GB	4MB	7200	XC336400LW	\$659	\$789
36.7GB	8MB	10,000	TY336700LW	\$899	\$1029
73.4GB	8MB	10,000	TY373400LW	\$1599	\$1729

Seagate

ULTRA 160 SCSI (up to 160MB/sec)

Capacity	Buffer	Speed	Part Number	Int.	Ext.
9.2GB	2MB	7200	ST39236LW	\$219	\$349
9.2GB	4MB	7200	ST39236LWV	\$239	\$369
9.2GB	4MB	10,000	ST39204LW	\$269	\$399
18.2GB	4MB	10,000	ST318404LW	\$395	\$525
18.4GB	2MB	7200	ST318436LW	\$325	\$455
18.4GB	4MB	7200	ST318436LWV	\$335	\$465
18.4GB	4MB	15,000	ST318451LW	\$589	\$719
36.7GB	4MB	10,000	ST336704LW	\$659	\$789
36.7GB	16MB	10,000	ST336704LWV	\$679	\$809
73.4GB	4MB	10,000	ST173404LW	\$1189	\$1319
73.4GB	16MB	10,000	ST173404LWV	\$1219	\$1349

IBM

ULTRA 160 SCSI (160MB/sec)

Capacity	Buffer	Speed	Part Number	Int.	Ext.
9.1GB	4MB	7200	07N3120	\$239	\$369
9.1GB	4MB	10,000	07N3220	\$285	\$415
18.2GB	4MB	7200	07N3110	\$355	\$485
18.3GB	4MB	10,000	07N3210	\$429	\$559
36.4GB	4MB	7200	07N3100	\$595	\$725
36.9GB	4MB	10,000	07N3200	\$679	\$809

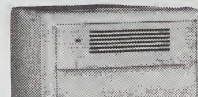
We carry a complete line of Ultra 160 SCSI Controllers. Call!

FIBRE 160 HARD DRIVES

Seagate

Capacity	Speed	Buffer	Part Number	Int.
9.2GB	10,000rpm	4MB	ST39204FC	\$269
18.2GB	10,000rpm	4MB	ST318404FC	\$395
36.7GB	10,000rpm	4MB	ST336704FC	\$659
73.4GB	10,000rpm	4MB	ST173404FC	\$1189

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Mounts in a 5.25" bay. Features dual
 cooling fans & heat activated circuitry
 to increase fan speed as the drive gets
 warmer. A necessity for 7200 &
 10,000rpm drives. [VHDFAN] \$25

CD MEDIA

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CD RECORDABLE MEDIA

CDR-74 in jewel case Hot New Price!

12x	Budget 5 pack (CDR74B-5)	\$6
12x	Budget 20 pack (CDR74B-20)	\$22
12x	Budget 50 pack (CDR74B-50)	\$50
12x	Budget 100 pack (CDR74B-100)	\$89
12x	5 pack (CDR74-5)	\$8
12x	20 pack (CDR74-20)	\$27
12x	50 pack (CDR74-50)	\$66
12x	100 pack (CDR74-100)	\$125
12x	Platinum 5 pack (CDR74PA-5)	\$9
12x	Platinum 20 pack (CDR74PA-20)	\$29
12x	Platinum 50 pack (CDR74PA-50)	\$69
12x	Platinum 100 pack (CDR74PA-100)	\$129

Printable CDR-74 in jewel case Alone with CDR

12x	Budget 5 pack (CDR74PB-5)	\$7
12x	Budget 20 pack (CDR74PB-20)	\$22
12x	Budget 50 pack (CDR74PB-50)	\$54
12x	Budget 100 pack (CDR74PB-100)	\$95
12x	5 pack (CDR74P-5)	\$10
12x	20 pack (CDR74P-20)	\$37
12x	50 pack (CDR74P-50)	\$89
12x	100 pack (CDR74P-100)	\$179

NEW 80 MINUTE MEDIA!

12x	5 Pack [CDR80-5]	\$7
12x	20 Pack [CDR80-20]	\$15
12x	50 Pack [CDR80-50]	\$49
12x	100 Pack [CDR80-100]	\$99
Bulk!	Spindle 74 minute media. Includes 50 CD-Rs (12x), No jewel cases included (CDR74S-50)	\$59
Bulk!	Spindle 74 minute media. Includes 100 CD-Rs (12x), No jewel cases included (CDR74S-100)	\$115
Bulk!	Spindle 80 minute media. Includes 100 CD-Rs (12x), No jewel cases included (CDR80S-100)	\$99

CD REWRITABLE MEDIA

CDR-74W in jewel case Hot New Price!

4x	Budget 5 pack (CDR74WB-5)	\$9
4x	Budget 20 pack (CDR74WB-20)	\$31
4x	Budget 50 pack (CDR74WB-50)	\$69
4x	Budget 100 pack (CDR74WB-100)	\$119
4x	5 pack (CDR74W-5)	\$15
4x	20 pack (CDR74W-20)	\$65
4x	50 pack (CDR74W-50)	\$155
4x	100 pack (CDR74W-100)	\$269

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IDE CD REWRITABLE

- **Hewlett Packard 10x4x32 ReWritable** •
Writes to CDR (write once) or CD-RW (rewritable) media. Supports packet write, 4 MB buffer, tray loading.
IDE internal with software [C4492A] \$275
 - **Plextor 8x4x32 ReWritable** •
Writes to CDR (write once) or CD-RW media. Supports packet write, 4 MB buffer, tray loading.
IDE internal with software, 1 R & 1 RW disk [PXW8432R] \$229
 - **Yamaha 8x4x24 ReWritable** •
Writes to CDR (write once) or CD-RW media. Supports packet write, 4 MB buffer, tray loading.
IDE internal [YCRW8424E] \$209
 - **Sony 10x4x32 Rewritable** •
Writes to CDR (write once) or CD-RW media. Supports packet write, 4 MB buffer, tray loading.
IDE internal with software, 1 R & 1 RW disk [CRX145E] \$265
 - **Creative 8x4x32 Rewritable** •
Packet write, 2MB buffer, tray load.
IDE internal with software & 1 RW disk [SBCDRW8432] \$219
 - **Acer 8x4x32** •
Packet write, 8MB buffer, tray load.
IDE internal with software & 1 RW disk [CRW8432A] \$222
 - **Ricoh 8x4x32** •
Packet write, 4MB buffer, tray load.
IDE internal with software, 1 R & 1 RW disk [RW7080AK] \$225
 - **Yamaha 8x8x24 ReWritable** •
Writes to CDR (write once) or CD-RW media. Supports packet write, 4 MB buffer, tray loading.
IDE internal [YCRW8824E] \$319
- We have upgrade controller card solutions for all of your storage needs. Our representatives will gladly assist you in choosing the best controller for your drive purchase.*

SCSI CD RECORDERS

- **Plextor 8x20** •
Packet write, 1MB buffer, caddy load w/tray/caddy adapter. Includes software and 1 disk.
Internal [PXR8020T]/External [PXR8020TX] \$299/\$389
- **Teac 8x24** •
Packet write, 4MB buffer, tray load w/software & 1 disk.
Internal complete kit [CDR8X24TK] \$265
External [CDR8X24TKX] \$355

SCSI CD REWRITABLE

- **Yamaha 8x4x24 ReWritable** •
Packet write, 4MB buffer, tray loading.
SCSI Internal [YCRW8424S]/External [YCRW8424SX] \$239/\$289
- **Yamaha 8x8x24 ReWritable** •
Packet write, 4MB buffer, tray loading.
SCSI Internal [YCRW8824S]/External [YCRW8824SX] \$249/\$299
- **Sony 10x4x32 ReWritable** •
Packet write, tray loading.
SCSI Internal [CRX145S]/External [CRX145SX] \$319/\$379
- **Hewlett Packard 8x4x32 ReWritable** •
Packet write, 4MB buffer, tray loading.
SCSI Internal [C4457A]/External [C4457AX] \$279/\$339
- **CenDyne 12x4x32** •
Packet write, 4MB buffer, tray loading.
SCSI Internal [CDICD00028]/SCSI Ext. [CDICD00028X] \$325/\$385
- **Plextor 12x4x32 ReWritable** •
Packet write, 4MB buffer, tray loading.
SCSI Internal [PXW12432B]/SCSI Ext. [PXW12432BX] \$299/\$359













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- Fast 4X duplication speed, built in CD reader. LCD panel w/controls.
 - Built in hard drive allows you to save often used disk images.
 - Duplicate almost any type of disk. If the CD-ROM can read it, you can duplicate it.
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 - Copy source from CD to HDD once, then make 1-99 duplicates on the CD-R
 - Create custom audio CD's from multiple audio CD titles.
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THE BEST BUY IN CD REWRITABLES

 8x4x32 IDE RICOH Int. (RW7080AK) \$225 With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk	 8x4x32 SCSI HP Int. (C4457A) \$279 Ext. (C4457AX) \$339
 10x4x32 IDE SONY Int. (CRX145E) \$265 With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk	 12x4x32 SCSI CenDyne Int. (CDICD00028) \$325 Ext. (CDICD00028X) \$385
 8x4x24 IDE YAMAHA Int. (YCRW8424E) \$219	 8x4x24 SCSI YAMAHA Int. (YCRW8424S) \$239 Ext. (YCRW8424SX) \$289
 8x4x32 IDE PLEXTOR Int. (PXW8432R) \$229 With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk	 8x8x24 SCSI YAMAHA Int. (YCRW8824S) \$249 Ext. (YCRW8824SX) \$299
 8x8x24 IDE YAMAHA Int. (YCRW8824E) \$219	 10x4x32 SCSI SONY Int. (CRX145S) \$319 Ext. (CRX145SX) \$379
 10x4x32 IDE HP Int. (C4492A) \$275 With software	 12x4x32 SCSI PLEXTOR Int. (PXW12432B) \$299 Ext. (PXW12432BX) \$359

CD ROM READERS

• SCSI DRIVES •						
Brand	Model	Max Spin	Speed	Internal	External	
Teac	CD532S	32X	85ms	\$75	\$165	
Plextor	PX40TS(tray)	40X	85ms	\$93	\$183	
Plextor	PX32CS(caddy)	32X	85ms	\$140	\$230	
NEC	CDR3010	40X	85ms	\$72	\$162	
Toshiba	XM6401B	40X	85ms	\$82	\$172	
Kenwood	UCR415	52X	90ms	\$149	\$239	
Kenwood	72X — Call for details!					
• WIDE SCSI DRIVES •						
Plextor	PX40TSUW	40X	85ms	\$99	\$189	
Pioneer SCSI 24x 6 Disk external CD Changer					\$395	
• ATAPI DRIVES (IDE) •						
Brand	Model	Max Spin	Speed	Internal	Int Kit	
Teac	CD540E	40X	85ms	\$49	\$79	
NEC	CDR3000	40X	75ms	\$49	\$79	
Creative	SBCD52	52X	100ms	\$47	\$77	
Mitsumi	CRMCFX48X	48X	65ms	\$47	\$77	
Acer	CD650P	50X	85ms	\$47	\$77	
Kenwood	UCR412	52X	90ms	\$82	\$112	
Kenwood	UCR421	72X	100ms	\$112	\$155	
IDE CD Rom Case for parallel printer port (PCMCIA)				\$59		
HotPort External IDE CD case w/cable & card (HOTPORT)				\$129		
New Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live MP3+ (SBLIVEMP3+)				\$95		
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Complete CD labeling system. Includes Software with over 1200 predesigned backgrounds & clip art, 50 labels, label applicator, and 20 sets of jewel case inserts. Easy to use. With the included stand-alone software, making professional looking labels is easy. CD Stomper Pro software works with Win 3.1, 95, NT, & Mac. Alone/With CDR drive purchase \$25/\$19

• **CD MASTERING SOFTWARE** •
Adaptec Easy-CD Creator \$30 w/drive purchase Retail \$90
Super easy to use. Supports Windows 95, 98 and Windows NT 3.51, & 4.x. Bundle version now supports Macintosh operating system. Win & Mac.
Apple Toast CD-ROM Pro Retail \$89
The #1 mastering software for Macintosh. Supports Mac OS7 and later on Macintosh or compatible.
Creative Digital Research HyCD for UNIX Retail version \$1559
HyCD Publisher works on SunOS, Solaris, and IRIX. It is used to develop Hybrid CD-ROMs integrating PC (ISO 9660 & Joliet), Macintosh (HFS), and UNIX (Rock Ridge) formats on a single CD-ROM. Note: Bundle versions may only be sold with a CD-R or CD-RW drive.

DVD DRIVES

COMPLETE KITS				
Brand	Interface	CD Speed	DVD Speed	Part # Price
MegaHaus	16X	Drive kit [DVD16KIT]		\$199
Creative	Encore 8X	DVD Drive kit [CLDVD8KIT]		\$239
Toshiba	IDE	40X/80ms	12X, 90ms	SDM1402 \$135
Pioneer	IDE	40X/80ms	16X, 110ms	DVD105 \$145
Pioneer	IDE	40X/80ms	16X, 110ms	DVD115 \$165
Pioneer	SCSI	40X/90ms	10X, 120ms	DVD304 \$195
Hollywood MPEG-2 Decoder [HOLLYWOOD] \$69				
Waveless wireless transmitter allows you to transmit DVD movies from computer to TV [PCTOTV] \$119 or \$109 w/DVD drive.				

CD MULTIDRIVE TOWERS

• CD ROM TOWERS •

For fast access to multiple CD's at one time.
Perfect for schools, networks, and more. Toll free support.
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4 DRIVE SCSI TOWERS				7 DRIVE SCSI TOWERS			
40X	79ms	Toshiba	\$399	40X	79ms	Toshiba	\$699
40X	85ms	Plextor	\$439	40X	85ms	Plextor	\$779

Ethernet CD Towers - Built-in 10 baseT or 100 baseT Ethernet connection. Hooks directly to your network. Designed for mixed LAN environment - can be used simultaneously from Windows 95, NT, OS/2, DOS, and UNIX platforms using Novell Netware, Microsoft Networks, and NFS. Prices shown for 10base T, 10/100 also available. CALL.

Speed	Brand	7 Drive	Item #	13 Drive	Item #
40X	Plextor	\$1305	#PLEX40X7N	\$2259	#PLEX40X13T
40X	Toshiba	\$1195	#TOS6401X7N	\$2059	#TOS6401X13T
40X	NEC	\$1125	#NEC3010X7N	\$1925	#NEC3010X13T
52X	Kenwood	\$1739	#KEN415X7N	\$3049	#KEN415X13T

New! Auto Switching Ethernet CD Towers

Auto switches between 10 baseT or 100 base T Ethernet connection. Hooks directly to your network. Designed for mixed LAN environment - can be used simultaneously from Win 95, NT, Win for Workgroups, OS/2, HTTP, Mac, and UNIX. 40 drive speed, 8 drive tower. Item #MIT40X8N \$1189

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Internal IDE [ZIP100A] / 10 Pack [ZIP100A-10]	\$59/\$555
External SCSI [ZIP100]	\$95
Parallel External [PPZIP100]	\$105
External USB [ZIP100USB]	\$105
Zip media [ZIP100C] 2-9/10+	\$12/10

• IOMEGA 2GB JAZ •

Internal SCSI [JAZ21]	\$309
External SCSI [JAZ2X]	\$315
Jaz 1 GB media [JAZ1G1GPC] 2-5/5-9/10+	\$80/77/75
Jaz 2 GB media [JAZ2G1GPC] 2-5/5-9/10+	\$85/80/77

OPTICAL DRIVE

• SONY 5.2 GIG •

•4MB buffer. •Supports direct overwrite media. Compatible with 5 1/4" 650MB, 1.3GB, & 2.6GB disks.	
SCSI Drive Int. [SMOF551] / Ext. [SMOF551X]	\$1389/1529
5.2GB media [SMA55.2] 1-4/5-9/10+	\$83/80/77

TAPE BACKUP

• SEAGATE 8GB TR4 •

4GB native and 8GB compressed capacity. Backup rate up to 60MB/min. Includes DOS/Win backup software, cable & 1 tape.	
Internal IDE, with 1 tape [STT28000A]	\$189
External IDE, with 1 tape [STT28000AX]	\$319
Internal SCSI, with 1 tape [STT28000N]	\$225
External SCSI, with 1 tape [STT28000NX]	\$295

• HEWLETT PACKARD 10GB TR5 •

Incl. backup soft. for Dos & Win, 1 tape & cable. TR5 tapes \$43	
SCSI Internal TR5 [C4394A]	\$385
SCSI External TR5 [C4394AX]	\$475

• SEAGATE 10GB TR5 •

Internal IDE, with 1 tape, cable & soft. [STT22000A]	\$225
External IDE, with 1 tape, cable & soft. [STT22000AX]	\$385

SCSI TAPE DRIVES

• 4MM DAT DRIVES •

Cap. (Native/Comp.)	Max Speed	Brand & Model	
2GB 4GB	66MB/min	Seagate STD24000N	\$419
4GB 8GB	60MB/min	Seagate DDS-2 STD28000NC	\$349
4GB 8GB	66MB/min	Seagate DDS-2 STD28000N	\$499
4GB 8GB	60MB/min	HP C1599AI	\$525
10GB 20GB	100MB/min	Seagate STT2200BARE	\$279
12GB 24GB	144MB/min	Sony DDS-3 SDT9000AI	\$679
12GB 24GB	120MB/min	HP DDS-3 C1554AI	\$709
20GB 40GB	288MB/min	Sony DDS-4 SDT11000AI	\$969
48GB 96GB	48MB/min	Seagate STL496000N	\$1999
72GB 144GB	120MB/min	HP C5648A 6 tape loader	\$1669
160GB 320GB	840MB/min	Sony TSL-S11000 tape loader	\$2559
Media 1-4/5-9/10+	120Meter (DAT120M)		\$9/8/7
Media 1-4/5-9/10+	125 Meter (DAT125M)		\$20/19/18
Media 1-4/5-9/10+	150 Meter (DAT150M)		\$45/\$43/\$41

• EXABYTE 8MM DAT DRIVES •

7GB 14GB	120MB/min	ELLIANT820	\$1149
20GB 40GB	360MB/min	EXB8900	\$1999
140GB 280GB	180MB/min	EZ17SWK loader	\$4349
Media 2-4/5-9/10+	160Meter (DAT160M8MM)		\$12/11/10

• QUANTUM DLT DRIVES •

20GB-40GB	180MB/min	DLT4000	\$1299
Above as ext. our case		DLT4000X	\$1399
Above as ext. Qtm case		DLT4000QX	\$1549
40GB-80GB	600MB/min	DLT8000	\$3879
Above as ext. our case		DLT8000X	\$3979
Above as ext. Qtm case		DLT8000QX	\$3999
Media 2-4/5-9/10+		DLT3(DLT3)	\$36/34/32
Media 2-4/5-9/10+		DLT3XT(DLT3XT)	\$39/36/34
Media 2-4/5-9/10+		DLT4(DLT4)	\$69/67/65
2-4/5-9/10+		DLT Cleaning Tape(DLTCLAN)	\$40/39/36

• AIT DRIVES •

Sony, Seagate call for price.
Compressed capacity is with maximum compression. Speed and amount of compression depends on your application. Autoloaders may require certain options to get advertised capacity.

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Make your CDs look more professional with the Signature color CD printer. Prints on CD printable media. Compatible with Win 3.1, 95 NT, and MacOS, [CDPRINTER3] ONLY \$1069

MAKE IT REMOVABLE



It's 2AM - DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR FILES ARE?
Your data is valuable to you. Keep it safe by keeping it with you. Key on your drive when you start in the morning. Key off & take it home with you at night. This is the best data security measure on the market.

DATA-PORT V Removable Drive Brackets

High quality construction. Gold plated connections. Features built in cooling fan, SCSI ID switch. Metal frame construction. Plastic cartridge with metal top and bottom covers. New IDE 66 is backward compatible with ATA-33 drives.

COMPLETE KIT	PLATINUM	BLACK
Includes 1 frame, and 1 cartridge		
IDE 66 with plastic cartridge (DP2200A66)	\$85	n/a
IDE 66 with metal cartridge (DP2200AM66)	\$95	\$109
ULTRA WIDE SCSI (DP2200UW)	\$139	\$159
EXTRA CARTRIDGE		
Plastic IDE 66 (DPACART66)	\$42	n/a
Metal IDE 66 (DPACARTM66)	\$62	\$79
ULTRA WIDE SCSI (DPUWCART)	\$69	\$89
EXTRA FRAME		
IDE 66 (DPAFRAME66)	\$52	
ULTRA WIDE SCSI (DPUFRAME)	\$79	

DATA-PORT VI Removable Drive Brackets

High quality construction. Gold plated connections. Features built in cooling fan with audible fan failure alarm, SCSI ID switch. Metal frame and cartridge construction.

COMPLETE KIT	PLATINUM	BLACK
Includes 1 frame, and 1 cartridge		
Ultra SCSI (DP2200SM)	\$89	\$129
ULTRA WIDE SCSI (DP2200UW)	\$149	\$169
SCA (uses SCA drives) (DP2200SCA)	\$139	\$159
EXTRA CARTRIDGE		
Ultra SCSI (DPSACARTM)	\$59	\$79
ULTRA WIDE SCSI (DPUWCARTM)	\$89	\$109
SCA (uses SCA drives) (DPSACACART)	\$89	\$109
EXTRA FRAME		
Ultra SCSI (DPSFRAME)	\$59	
ULTRA WIDE SCSI (DPUFRAMEA)	\$69	
SCA (DPSFRAME)	\$79	

ACCESSORIES for DataPort V and VI

Cover plate (DPFPLATE)	\$8	\$10
Metal Carrying Case. Fully lined w/lock for extra security (DPCASEM)	\$35	

Keep your data safe - in fact, this is the ultimate in data safety. When you want to lock up your data - lock up your whole drive! With DataPort - You CAN take it with you when you go.

BACKUP SOFTWARE

Seagate (formerly Veritas) (formerly Seagate)

Backup Exec

Windows 95 & 98 (SBEWDWD)	\$69
Windows NT workstation (SBENTWD)	\$69
Windows NT/2000 Exchange Server Agent (SBENTEX006)	\$495
Windows NT/2000 SQL Agt E/F/G/S/I (SBENTSQ0007)	\$565
Windows NT/2000 Server En (SBENTSR0000)	\$569
Small Business Server Suite (SBENTSB)	\$429
Network single server & unlimited users (SBENWSE)	\$449
Network multi server (SBENWME)	\$829

NovaStor

NovaBack CD contains backup software for DOS, Win 3.1,

Windows 95, Win NT, and OS/2 Compatible with SCSI, IDE, and QIC drives (19801)	\$55
NovaBackup for Windows NT/2000 Server (29801)	\$125
Workstation (29821)	\$59
NovaNet 8 for Windows	
SE for Windows NT/2000 (79210)	\$299
Single Server for NT/2000 (79230)	\$415
Unlimited for NT/2000 (79250)	\$715
NovaNet 8 for NetWare	
SE (79310)	\$319
Single Server for NetWare 25 User (79320)	\$339
Single Server for NetWare 1000 User (79330)	\$419
Unlimited for NetWare 25 User (79340)	\$589
Unlimited for NetWare 1000 User (79350)	\$689

USB DRIVES & ACCESSORIES

100MB Zip Drive — Iomega USB 100MB Zip drive. Easy to install, simply connect to the USB port on your system and install the included software. #ZIP100USB \$129

4x4x32 CD Rewritable for PC or Mac — Master Cds with this complete kit. Includes mastering software and drive in high quality external USB case. #USB4X4X32 \$279

2.2GB Orb — Revolutionary removable media storage by Castlewood Systems holds 2.2GB of uncompressed storage capacity. Includes a 2.2GB cartridge. #ORBUSB \$259

250MB Zip — Iomega USB 250MB Zip drive. Easy to install, simply connect to the USB port on your system and install the included software. #ZIP250USB \$179

USB to SCSI Adapter — USB to SCSI adapter by Adaptec. Allows you to attach any SCSI device to the USB port. Supports up to 7 SCSI devices. #USBSCSI \$69

SuperDisk Drive 120MB & Floppy — Imation LS-120 USB drive for iMac & Blue G3 systems. Reads Mac & PC formats. Uses 1.4MB and 120MB disks. #USBL120 \$149

1394 USB/PCI Board — 2 1394 ports & 2 USB external ports for plug and play peripherals. #70HTL00060 \$149

Floppy Drive — Teac USB floppy for iMac. Reads & writes Mac and PC formats. Features iMac blue case. #USBFLOPPY \$85

USB Hard Drives — USB external hard drive with built-in fan & USB cable. Cool looking translucent white plastic casing.

10GB #USB10GB	\$169	15GB #USB15GB	\$195
20GB #USB20GB	\$213	30GB #USB30GB	\$275

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NEW! 1394 PRODUCTS



The new 1394 interface is a high performance technology that can support up to 63 devices with current

data transfer speeds up to 400Mbps per second. This hot new technology is also known as Firewire and i.Link.

1394 PCMCIA CARDBUS — Hot plug connect multimedia peripherals to your computer without restarting. Dual connectors support 1394 peripherals such as disk drives, scanners, printers and digital cameras. #70HTL00040 \$109

1394 USB/PCI BOARD — 2 1394 & 2 USB external ports for plug & play peripherals. USB/PCI Board #70HTL00060 \$139

1394 PCI/MAC BOARD KIT — Edit video from your PC or your Macintosh #70HTL13941 \$89

1394 HUB — Disconnect 1394 peripherals without disturbing other peripherals in a traditional daisy chain. Provides 5 additional 1394 ports from a single power supply. #70HTL00030 \$85

1394 REPEATER AND CABLES — Connect one repeater to another using 15 foot cables. Reach up to 236 feet total length from the original 1394 host system.

Repeater: #70HTL00020	\$45
15 Ft. Cable: 6pin to 4pin #70CAB13943	\$28
15 Ft. Cable: 6pin to 6pin #70CAB13942	\$30

1394 UMAX PowerLook 1100 Scanner with DuoDesign Software Bundle



Designed for use on Macintosh or Windows PC systems equipped with a FireWire/IEEE-1394 port. The PowerLook 1100 features a high 3.4Dmax for fine details, 4MB I/O buffer, 1200 x 2400 dpi with a 10,600 element tri-linear CCD, and an effective 42-bit output. (SPKG14006) \$979

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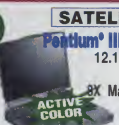
\$899⁹⁹



SATELLITE 2755 DVD

Pentium® III 600 Mhz Processor
12.1" Active Color Display,
64 Mb Ram/6 Gb HD,
24X Max DVD-Rom, 56k Modem

\$1599⁹⁹



VAIO PCG-F520

Pentium® III 500 Mhz Processor
13" HPA Color Display,
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24X CD-Rom, 56k Mod.

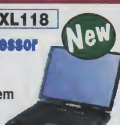
\$1699⁹⁹



PRESARIO 1200-XL118

K6-2 500 Mhz Processor
13" HPA Color Display,
64 Mb Ram/6 Gb HD,
24X CD-Rom, 56k Modem

\$1099⁹⁹



PRESARIO 1200-XL125

K6-2 533 Mhz Processor
13.3" Active Color Display,
64 Mb Ram/6.4 Gb HD,
DVD-Rom, 56k Mod.

\$1599⁹⁹



Model	Processor	Display	Ram/HD/CD/Mod	Price
1675CDS	Celeron® 550	12.1 DS	64/6.24X/56k	1099.99
1625COT	K6®-2 475	12.1 TFT	64/4.3/24X/56k	1099.99
1695COT	Celeron® 600	12.1 TFT	64/6.24X/56k	1399.99
2210COT	Celeron® 500	12 TFT	64/6.24X/56k	1299.99
2250XDS	Celeron® 600	13 DSTN	64/6.24X/56k	1199.99
2250COT	Celeron® 600	12.1 TFT	64/6.24X/56k	1399.99
2655XVD	Celeron® 466	14.1 TFT	64/6.4X/DVD/56k	1599.99
2675DVD	Pentium® III 450	12.1 TFT	64/6 DVD/56k	1499.99

SATELLITE 2715 XDVD

Pentium® III 500 Mhz Processor
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64 Mb Ram/6 Gb HD,
4X DVD-Rom
56k Modem

\$1899⁹⁹



4320DVD	Pentium® III 600	12.1 TFT	64/6 DVD/56k	1799.99
4340DVD	Pentium® III 650	14.1 TFT	64/12 DVD/56k	2399.99
4280DVD	Pentium® III 500	15 TFT	64/6.6X DVD/56k	2399.99
4360DVD	Pentium® III 700	15.1 TFT	64/12 DVD/56k	2699.99

SATELLITE 2775 XDVD

Pentium® III 650 Mhz Processor
14.1" Active Color Display,
64 Mb Ram/12 Gb HD,
8X Max DVD-Rom
56k Modem

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TECRA

8000	Pentium® III 400	14.1 TFT	128/10 DVD/Opt.	1799.99
8000	Pentium® III 500	14.1 TFT	64/10 DVD/Opt.	2199.99

TECRA 8100

Pentium® III 500 Mhz Processor
14.1" Active Color Display,
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24X CD-Rom
56k Modem

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8100	Pentium® III 450	14.1 TFT	64/6.24X/56k	1899.99
8100	Pentium® III 600	14.1 TFT	64/12 DVD/56k	2599.99
8100	Pentium® III 650	14.1 TFT	128/12 DVD/56k	2999.99
8100	Pentium® III 700	14.1 TFT	128/12 DVD/56k	CALL
8100	Pentium® III 750	14.1 TFT	128/12 DVD/56k	CALL

PORTAGE 3440 CT

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56k Modem

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3480CT	Pentium® III 600	11.3 TFT	64/12 Opt/56k	2499.99
7140CT	Pentium® III 500	13.3 TFT	64/8.4 Opt/56k	2299.99
7200CT	Pentium® III 600	13.3 TFT	64/12 Opt/56k	2999.99
7200CT	Pentium® III 650	12 TFT	64/12 Opt/56k	CALL

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F-450	Pentium® III 500	14.1 TFT	64/9 DVD/56k	2299.99
F-480	Pentium® III 600	15 TFT	64/12 DVD/56k	2699.99
F-490	Pentium® III 650	15 TFT	128/18 DVD/56k	3399.99
F-540	Pentium® III 500	14.1 TFT	64/8 DVD/56k	2199.99
F-560	Pentium® III 600	14.1 TFT	64/9 DVD/56k	2399.99
F-580	Pentium® III 650	15.1 TFT	64/12 DVD/56k	2799.99

VAIO PCG-XG28

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XG-18	Pentium® III 650	13.3 TFT	128/18 DVD/56k	2999.99
XG-29	Pentium® III 750	14.1 TFT	128/18 DVD/56k	3499.99

VAIO PCG-N505JE

Pentium® III 500 Mhz Processor
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56k Mod.

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Z505HE	Pentium® III 450	12.1 TFT	64/8.1 Opt/56k	2099.99
Z505HS	Pentium® III 500	12.1 TFT	128/12 Opt/56k	2599.99
Z505JS	Pentium® III 650	12.1 TFT	128/12 Opt/56k	2899.99

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1200-106	K6®-2 475	13 HPA	32/5.24X/56k	999.99
1200-110	K6®-2 475	12.1 TFT	64/6.4/24X/56k	1199.99
1200-111	K6®-2 500	13.3 TFT	64/6 DVD/56k	1499.99
1200-126	K6®-2 533	13 HPA	64/6.24X/56k	1299.99
1400-245	Celeron® 566	13 HPA	64/6.24X/56k	1349.99
1400-245	Celeron® 566	13.3 TFT	64/6.24X/56k	CALL

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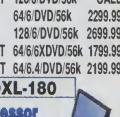


1700-265	Pentium® III 500	13.3 TFT	64/6 DVD/56k	1799.99
1700-265	Pentium® III 600	14.1 TFT	64/6 DVD/56k	2199.99
1700-275	Pentium® III 650	14.1 TFT	128/6 DVD/56k	2299.99
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1800-190	Pentium® III 700	15 TFT	128/6 DVD/56k	2699.99
1900-161	Pentium® III 450	12.1 TFT	64/6.6X DVD/56k	1799.99
1900-163	Pentium® III 500	13.3 TFT	64/6.4 DVD/56k	2199.99

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V300	Celeron® 466	14.1 TFT	64/4.3/24X/56k	1499.99
V300	Celeron® 500	14.1 TFT	64/6.24X/56k	1699.99

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Pentium® III 600 Processor
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E500	Celeron® 550	14.1 TFT	64/4/24X/56k	1799.99
E500	Pentium® III 450	14.1 TFT	64/12/24X/56k	1999.99
E500	Pentium® III 600	14.1 TFT	64/12/24X/56k	2299.99
E500	Pentium® III 650	14.1 TFT	64/12 DVD/56k	2699.99
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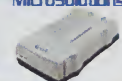
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15GB	5400rpm	QML15000LC	\$109
15GB	7200rpm	QMP15000LM	\$121
20GB	5400rpm	QML20000LC	\$120
20.5GB	7200rpm	QMP20500LM	\$150
30GB	5400rpm	QML30000LC	\$170
30GB	7200rpm	QMP30000LM	\$189

SEAGATE			
10.2GB	5400rpm	ST310212A	\$86
15.3GB	5400rpm	ST315323A	\$98
20.4GB	5400rpm	ST320423A	\$109
20.4GB	7200rpm	ST320420A	\$148
30.6GB	7200rpm	ST330630A	\$183

MAXTOR			
10.2GB	7200rpm	91024U3	\$99
10.2GB	7200rpm	91024U2	\$105
15.3GB	5400rpm	91531U3	\$100
15.3GB	7200rpm	91536U3	\$125
30.7GB	7200rpm	93073U6	\$200
40GB	5400rpm	94098U8	\$208
40.9GB	7200rpm	94098U8	\$240
61.4GB	5400rpm	96147U8	\$279

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20GB	5400rpm	07N3924	\$115
20GB	7200rpm	07N3928	\$155
30GB	7200rpm	07N3929	\$198
45GB	7200rpm	07N3931	\$268
60GB	7200rpm	07N3933	\$429
75GB	7200rpm	07N3935	\$536

WESTERN DIGITAL			
7.5GB	5400rpm	WD75AA	\$76
10.2GB	5400rpm	WD102AA	\$86
10.2GB	7200rpm	WD102BA	\$105
15.3GB	5400rpm	WD153AA	\$100
15.3GB	7200rpm	WD153BA	\$121
20.5GB	5400rpm	WD205AA	\$111
20.5GB	7200rpm	WD205BA	\$145
30.7GB	5400rpm	WD307AA	\$152
45GB	5400rpm	WD450AA	\$200

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Promise PCI Ultra-66 controller			\$40
Promise PCI Ultra-100 controller			\$45
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12GB	IBM	9.5mm	31L9800 \$219
12GB	Toshiba	9.5mm	HDD2149 \$234
18GB	Toshiba	12.5mm	HDD2934 \$324
18GB	IBM	12.5mm	31L9780 \$369
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The Hard Edge

BY ALICE HILL
AND BILL O'BRIEN

The World's Rudest Search Engine; Bookmarking Radio; and Bill and the Mouskateachers.

LATE SUMMER (WHICH IT IS IN THE CURRENT "HARD EDGE" TIME zone) is usually a relatively peaceful time in the world of technology, but not so in the year 2000. This summer, unrelenting squalls and deadly riptides have split Microsoft in two, washed up more e-commerce companies than even Alice expected, and cleansed the NASDAQ and its bullish investors of a hefty bit of pocket change. But guess what? No one said the digital world was easy, which is why Alice and Bill call this column "The Hard Edge."

It's funny how easy it was to forget the "hard" part after such a heady run of good fortune. But historically, the computer world has always been a terrifying roller-coaster ride, littered with bodies, past greatness, and tragically outstanding technologies no one paid attention to in time. That's why Alice and Bill are in business, and why "Hard Edge" readers are sharper than the average Joe. Translation: This ain't no daisy farm, bub, and it never was.

To help everyone get back their edge, Alice and Bill have found a little gem they'd like to pass on to kick off the new fall season. Alice predicts we're about to enter the rude online years, so get ready for Search Bastard.

Before you check out the URL (www.searchbastard.com), here's a bit of background and a warning. Both Alice and Bill are ex-New Yorkers, which means gruffness and chilling rudeness are second nature to them. Yet the Web, being largely a product of California, is essentially a friendly and polite world where messages like "Please enter your e-mail address" and "Thanks for subscribing to our newsletter" rule the day. That's fine for now and then, but how about when you need a good dose of New York attitude?

Search Bastard bills itself as the rudest search engine on the Web—just the way Alice and Bill like it. You won't find any fancy graphics, shopping ads, or promotional click-throughs—just an ugly search box and sheer rudeness. Give it a try. The search results can be pretty good, and the



take-no-prisoners attitude gets a Big Apple thumbs-up from Alice and Bill. Warning: Sometimes you get only abuse and no search results. And if you're offended by four-letter words and profanity, this is definitely not the site for you. Stick with the happier worlds of AltaVista and Excite, because this one is pretty coarse.

BOOKMARK THAT SONG

Speaking of coarse, Alice and Bill occasionally get rude e-mail from "Hard Edge" veterans who bemoan that so much of their column has to do with the online world, e-business, and all the other things basically shaping our futures. Why can't Alice and Bill open up boxes of neat PC components and write about them, the way they used to? The short answer: The world has

changed since 1992. A \$2,000 EISA motherboard needed careful discussion. A \$599 throwaway PC just doesn't warrant the same space. But Alice and Bill are hardware junkies, and this month Alice has found an intriguing new technology that combines the best of both worlds: airwaves and hardware.

Sony recently announced a technology called eMarker that lets you bookmark a song you hear on your car radio. When you're intrigued by a new song and know the DJ will go straight to a commercial before revealing the name of the artist, you simply click a little device attached to your key chain. Presto! An instant bookmark of the airwaves.

When you get to your PC, you simply download all the bookmarks in your eMarker and click on the links for information on the artist, and of course, where to buy the CD. Ironically, now that sites like MP3 and Napster have made it so easy to download music without having to buy the CD, it's probably two years too late for this technology to have the super boffo impact it could have had.

Alice thinks Sony should roll out the music piece quickly and then move on to where the big bucks are—television. Unleashing the eMarker on TV airwaves could be the scariest thing to happen since, well, the invention of television. Picture the following:

Forget the home shopping channels and all the infomercial 800 numbers. Instead, imagine a world where you could click on an actor's shirt while watching *ER* and order it online. In a single click that scary retailing fantasy world marketers dream of comes alive. Of course, that inevitably means the TV show itself would become a virtual minefield of hidden promotional items, which would lead to shows featuring more and more items, like the *Friends* episode this past season built shamelessly around Pottery Barn. In the end, if you follow the maddening spiral all the way out, it leads to a show that's merely about products, which in an eerie circular way leads us back to

the Home Shopping Network and infomercials. Who knew they were so ahead of their time after all? (*Yeah, but at least they don't yell at you like most of the folk on the Shop at Home Network do.* —Bill)

GIRLS CATCHED NAKED

We know we have your attention, but what we really want is to put your brain on alert. Expressions like our little catchphrase, as well as "I need some advise" and "Can I axe you a question?" litter the Internet. You remember the Internet. It's that place politicians think should be in your home, in every home. It's that wonderful source of education for "the children" that belongs in every school. Yeah, we can see them searching the Internet for advise about girls who got caught naked so they can axe you questions about it later.

The Internet is not a fountain of education; it's a reference source. Would you sit your child down in front of an encyclopedia, say "Now learn!" and walk away? There's no structure, no curriculum to that regimen. That's why the Net is a reference source. You're supposed to approach a reference source with a concept you've learned and use it to fill in the blanks.

Some people think filling in the blanks constitutes an education. It does, when you know what blanks you should be filling in. But it's not the computer in the classroom that sparks that initial yearning for more learning. The teacher is supposed to do that. All the computer does is keep kids in today's oversized classes occupied until (if ever) the teacher can get to each student. That's not education. That's a Band-Aid approach to our school systems' problems, and it's not even a good, sticky, antibacterial Band-Aid.

Here's the truth: There shouldn't be computers in the classroom. They should be in the school library. (May as well get some use out of that room no one visits anymore.) Students don't need distractions in the classroom. They need learning, from a teacher: The length of the hypotenuse of a right triangle is equal to the square root of the sum of the squares of its sides. Then, armed with that information, they can hurry over to the library and discover that aside from being just a dumb mathematical expression, that formula is a wonderful solution to drawing a perfectly perpendicu-

lar line, which is the only way to be certain that all four walls of a building are square. (Everybody who knows the 3-4-5 rule, raise your hand and have a plum.)

For all of you folk from Davis, Calif., who might not understand that, we'll put it in simpler terms. Education is learning what a cloud is. The Internet is seeing that cloud as a Disney character. Got it now? And the next time a politician tells you he (or she) has vowed to put a computer in every classroom, you tell him (or her) you don't want a Mickey Mouse education system.

SHORT TAKES

■ What happens when you pair an 800MHz Athlon against an 800MHz Pentium III? The Pentium III is faster. What happens when you pair a 1GHz Athlon against a 1GHz Pentium III? The Pentium III is faster. Now, before we get a billion letters in Crayola on scraps of brown paper from crazed Athlon fanatics

Next time a politician tells you he (or she) has vowed to put a computer in every classroom, you tell him (or her) you don't want a Mickey Mouse education system.

in Montana, the Pentium III is faster by about 7 percent. And because of RDRAM the Pentium III costs about 25 percent more than the Athlon. Don't believe us? Check out this month's feature on 1GHz systems right here in *Shopper*. (And don't you ever, ever, ever write to us and spout off about how unfair Bill is to the Athlon.)

■ Wireless home networking is the next big thing. Problem: The current kits advertise transfer rates in the 1.6Mbps to 2Mbps range. Why is that a problem? Transfer rate. It's a meaningless number. The real speed you'll experience is called the throughput rate. What's the difference? The former typically measures the data speed between the wireless interfaces, while the latter usually takes into account the speed of the computers (and their hard drives, and so on) that are linked together. Throughput rates can typically be around 40 percent of the advertised transfer rates. And while a wireless home network is measurably faster than a sneakernet, it

would be nice if someone, once, just to prove they could, told us all what was really happening instead of puffing everything up with adspeak. (If you don't know what a sneakernet is, you'll have to write in. Space is precious. And Bill likes to answer mail.)

■ "In-home service. If all else fails, they come to you." Kinda makes you wonder just what "all else" might be, doesn't it, Mr. Mark John Jeffries?

■ RDRAM: Just say no. If you need to say more than that it becomes redundant.

■ WinModems in the news: The folk at Motorola sent Bill an unsolicited press kit for its xDSL software modem. Didn't they read last month's column? Better still, we've just seen a PC Card WinModem. What a concept. Pathetically under-powered portables with peripherals that purloin part of the pitiful performance

they possess. Say that five times fast and see where it gets you.

■ Looking for 3D glasses to use with your computer? Make sure your monitor supports the refresh rate the glasses need. Otherwise you can keep those glasses on all day and not see one darn thing except rolling horizontal bars. Don't ask

how Bill knows this. (*Just know that I don't admit to ever having done that.* —Bill)

■ The December 2000 "Hard Edge" will be the 100th column. We expect a cake and balloons. A big cake and a lot of balloons. Helium-filled balloons so we can inhale the contents and talk funny. (*Just know that I don't admit to ever having written that.* —Alice)

MASTERS OF THEIR DOMAIN

Alice got so despondent after not hearing from "Hard Edge" readers (Bill hogs all the snail mail and refuses to forward any to California), she set up her own Internet domain—alicehill.com. Stop by and sign the guestbook, or drop Alice and Bill an old-fashioned letter:

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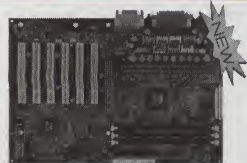
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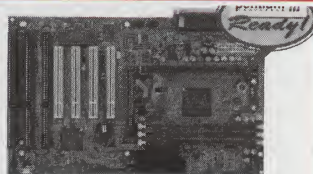
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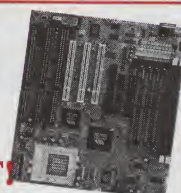


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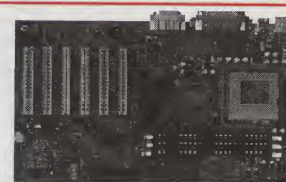
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- Includes a durable carrying case.

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CNWTCE7E.....7', blue.....	\$2.25
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CNWTCE25E.....25', blue.....	\$6.49
CNWTCE50E.....50', blue.....	\$9.95
CNWTCE1ZE.....100', blue.....	\$19.95

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- Compatible with windows 98
- Gain high speed access data rate, PnP

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WUSB4B.....4 PORT, i-blue.....	\$24.95

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XPS1000.....RJ45 & BNC ports.....	\$54.95
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XPS900.....RJ45 port.....	\$49.95
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XPS110.....RJ45 port.....	\$89.95
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XPS3A.....3 RJ45 ports.....	\$119.95

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Patch cable Multi-Duplex	
62.5/125, 1 Meter	
CFPSTST.....	\$17.99
CFPSCST.....	\$21.99
CFPSCSC.....	\$24.99

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- Includes hub/switch, sets of NIC and cables.
- Check Web Site for detail.

NKTRF422.....4 PORT.....	\$67.49
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Laplink Cables

Ideal for all types of null modem connections. 4-Head cable for linking PC/Laptop to PC/Laptop. High-quality molded cases.

Null DB9 Female to DB25 Female	
2 x D-SUB, 25 contacts, female 7 conductors	
2 x D-SUB, 9 contacts, female 7 conductors	
CNL0925FF.....6', Serial.....	\$3.99
DB25 Male to DB25 Male LapLink Cable	
CNL2525MM.....6', Parallel.....	\$2.99

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For connecting 25-pin serial devices with laptops and interface cards with a 9-pin serial port. Modem cable DB-9 (AT) to Hayes compatible modem or AT to serial laser printer. Molded.

DB9 to DB25 (1-8, 2-3, 3-2, 4-20, 5-7, 6-6, 7-4, 8-5, 9-22)	
CDM0925FM1.....1' F/M.....	\$1.25/12+
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CDM0925FM6.....6' F/M.....	\$2.25/12+
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CDM0925FM25.....25' F/M.....	\$3.95/6+
DB25 to DB25 (1-1, 2-2, 3-3, 4-4, 5-5, 6-6, 7-7, 8-8, 20-20, 22-22)	
CMD2525FM9.....9' F/M.....	\$2.25/12+
DB9 to DB25 Assembled	
CD0925FM-6.....6' F/M.....	\$1.75/12+

AT and PS/2 Keyboard Adapters

- Use as a Notebook to Computer Keyboard Adapter
- AK0506FM.....Din5F to Mini Din6M.....
- AK0506MM.....Din5M to Din5M.....
- AK0506MF.....Din5M to Mini Din6F.....
- Can be Used to fit any motherboard.
- CIJM658F.....6".....

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EVA and PVC Material CD Wallet for 24, 56, 80 & 280 CD's

All EVA CD wallet are made out of weather proof material with compressed padding, reinforced edge bonding, and round corner that shows an elegant and classy style in a solid finish. It keeps CD's clean and free from dust.

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XDBC28B.....28 pcs capacity.....	\$7.95
XDBC56B.....56 pcs capacity.....	\$10.95
PVC material, black color.	
XDBCP28B.....24 pcs capacity.....	\$4.95
XDBCP80B.....80 pcs capacity.....	\$9.95
XDBCP208B.....208 pcs capacity.....	\$19.95

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- ATX Desktop chassis
- 2 large, 3 small Bays.
- Custom design Front Bezel.

HDR21A.....	\$44.95	\$42.95/2+
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External SCSI Cases

- Includes internal SCSI ribbon Cable with CENT50F-socket 50-CENT50F Cable

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HDXFD1004.....4 Bay.....	\$94.95/2+
HDX508.....8 Bay.....	\$249.00/2+

Pop-Up CD Portable case

- Stores 10 CD's with colorful style.
- Built with spring push button.
- Space available to store CD manual.
- Protects from dust and organizes CD.

5.6"(W) x 6.9"(D) x 0.16"(H).	
XDBSWB.....blue color.....	\$5.95
XDBSWR.....red color.....	\$5.95
XDBSWG.....green color.....	\$5.95
XDBSWP.....purple color.....	\$5.95
XDBSWO.....orange color.....	\$5.95

Colorful Multimedia Dome

- Stores CD's with colorful style.
- Built with keylock for security.
- Stores 30 CD's, 15 pcs of 3.5" FDD disk, or 10 MO disks.
- 6.4"(W) x 10"(D) x 6.1"(H).

XDBSMTIB.....blue.....	\$6.95
XDBSMTIR.....red.....	\$6.95
XDBSMTIP.....purple.....	\$6.95

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- Stores 40/60 CDs; Handle locks

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- Protect your loose CD ROMs with these durable plastic cases.
- Five Per Pack
- CDJEWEL CD Jewel Box.....
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CD Wallet available on Web

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Power Strips with Surge Protector

- Durable plastic, Built-in circuitbreaker, 1 MOV line protection

CG26P1.....6 outlets, plastic, 4' cord.....	\$2.49
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- 7 outlets, plastic, EMI, Vertical socket, 3MOV Protection

CG27P1.....7 outlets, 6' Power Cord, EMI.....	\$7.95
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- 1 MOV Line Protection, EMI noise filter.

CG26P3.....6 outlets, plastic, 6' cord.....	\$4.95
EPS10P.....6 outlets, plastic, 10' cord.....	\$5.95

- Metal, 1 MOV, Built-in circuit breaker, metal

CG26M.....6 outlet.....	\$5.95
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- Modem/phone jack, 3 x2 outlet, metal EMI/RFI, 3MOV line protection

CG26D.....6' Power Cord.....	\$5.95
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6 Outlet Plastic Power Strip with 1.5' Cord and Surge protection

- 125 Volts/15 Amp push-to-reset circuit breaker for over load protection. Ivory.
- 6 heavy duty grounded outlets.
- Lighted On/Off switch.
- Line protection: 1 MOV.
- Power rating: 70 Joules.
- 1 1/4" x 1" x 9 1/2".

EPS06Z.....	\$2.49
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Best Price

\$1.99/24+

Color Power Strip with Transformer Space, 6' Cord

- Protect your computer and modem from power surges and spike damage.
- Extra outlet for transformer.
- Line protection: 11 MOV; EMI.
- Power rating: 270 Joules.
- 3 1/2" x 1 1/4" x 10 1/4".
- 125 Volts/15 Amp push-to-reset circuit breaker for over load protection. Ivory color.
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- Comes with color label that allows you identify devices.

EPS62IC.....8 outlet.....	\$19.95
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Power Strip All UL Approved 2x3 Power Strip with Modem Protection

- Surge Indicator Light; Durable ABS Plastic
- Circuit Breaker, EMI, 3 MOV, 6' Cord
- CG26B.....2x3 Strip.....

CG26B.....	\$7.49
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7 Outlet Power Strip with Transformer Space

- Extra Outlet for Transformer, Power Surge Indicator, Circuit Breaker, EMI, 1 MOV, 4' Cord
- CG237P.....with Transformer.....

CG237P.....	\$5.95
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Power Console

- Circuit breaker, with reset button
- Modem protection (PP06D)
- Full 3 line surge protection (3 m.o.v's) (PP06D)
- Noise filter (EMI/RFI) (PP06D)
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- PP06D.....with Modem Protection.....

PP06U.....	\$11.95
PP06D.....	\$15.95



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* Extend your valuable HDD life and reliability.

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For Pentium 75+, Ball Bearing. BCF17.....\$86 Cooler.....\$4.95

* With 3 pin connector support LDCM MB. BCFMB.....P233+/K6-2 Cooling Kit.....\$6.95

* Equipped with clip for easy installation, ball bearing (K7 Cooler).

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Second case fan for computer. Includes power adapter; 3.15" x 3.15" x 1"

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For PS/2 or XT power supplies. Measures: 3.15" x 3.15" x 1"

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For 7,200-10,000 Rpm HDD. XMKL20.....\$32.95.....\$29.95/3+

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* Protect HDD against heat-dissipate

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XMKRH261.....12.95.....9.95/5+

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XMKRH271.....14.95.....11.95/5+

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set, fan & Alum. tray. For 3600-10000 RPM HDDs.

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* US Patent & CE Approval. XMKARH371.....49.95.....44.95/5+

High End Wide SCSI Aluminum HDD Mobile Rack Ultra Wide SCSI, HDB68 pin female

RH-25 Complete set w/ Electronic Lock, Fan, aluminum Tray, & ID display. For 4500-10000RPM HDD's.

XMKERWDFD.....59.95.....54.59/5+

RH-28 Complete set w/ Electronic Lock, 2 inner Fans, plastic Tray, & ID display. For 4500-10000RPM HDD's.

XMKERWD2F.....34.95.....32.00/5+

RH-29 Complete set w/ Electronic Lock, 2 inner Fans, Alum. Tray, & ID display. For 4500-10000RPM HDD's, Black Color.

XMR129WB.....79.95.....69.50/5+

ACCESORIES CORNER

Monitor Filter

* Reduce glare and reflection. Enhances sharpness/contrast MF14G.....for 15",Color...\$3.99

XMF17G.....for 17",Color...\$6.95

Metal Desktop Keyboard Drawer

* Stores keyboard under the CPU case or monitor.

An easy way to save more workspace.

* Smooth ball bearing rollers with spring lock monitor.

* Sturdy steel case holds up to 21" monitor and desktop.

* 20 1/4"(W) x 9 1/2"(D) x 2 1/4"(H). KDMT.....\$15.95.....\$14.95/3+

Photo Mouse Pad

* Anti-static, rubber texture. Dimensions: 8" x 9".

Fit 4" x 6" Photo, Rubber.

JMPHOTO1.....Kingfish.....\$2.99.....\$1.99/5+

JMPHOTO2.....Nassau.....\$2.99.....\$1.99/5+

JMPHOTO3.....Cupid.....\$2.99.....\$1.99/5+

JMPHOTO4.....Tiger.....\$2.99.....\$1.99/5+

JMPHOTO5.....PolarCub.....\$2.99.....\$1.99/5+

Mouse Pad

OUPB.....Blue.....69¢.....49¢/20+

OUPG.....Gray.....69¢.....49¢/20+

OUPR.....Red.....69¢.....49¢/20+

Economic Monitor Arm with

Keyboard Holder

The economic monitor arm can hold up to a 17" monitor. Platform dimensions are 13.7" x 13.7" up to 66 lbs. Base clamp rotates 180°.

* Chrome keyboard tray extends 275 mm.

* A +/- 8° tilt platform for convenience.

* Keyboard adjustable from 5° to 31°.

XMA06.....\$16.95.....\$15.95/3+

KB Wrist Rest

KBWR Blue \$1.99

KBWRG Gray \$1.99

Metal Thumb Screw For Case

* Easy to use and no tools needed.

* Replace Philip's head chassis screws. 50 pcs/bag

XAK05.....\$12.95

Multimedia Computer Cleaner Solution

All-in-one cleaning solution. Extensive in application for all computer peripherals, OA

business machines, telephone, and much more. XCK08.....\$11.95.....\$9.95/3+



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Case Specification & Price List

Model		Price	Dimension		Size		Est. 529.5M	
			W.D.H.		MB		Size	
1	2 BARB	900	19x17.6x25	MATX		10		13
	8 BWB	16752000	19x24.3x35	ATX		10		13
	2 BWC	300	19x22x3.5	BMTX		30		15
	2 BWC	300	19x22x7	BATX		30		15
	6 BWCX	325-550	19x24.4x7	BMTX		60		22
	1 BWC	200	19x18x7	BATX		80		10
	1 BWC	200	19x15x7	BATX		80		10
	22X2R/BWB	635-950	19x23.3x10.5	ATX		80		10
	6X8R/BWB	630-950	19x22.8x10.7	ATX		80		10
	UP	18	5.89x3.16	FATX		80		1
2	16B81X	6675	5.89x3.16	FATX		10		13
	18B1B	75	10x11.5x3	FATX		10		13
	18B1	88	8.3x10.6x2.8	FATX		20		20
	20B1	88	7.5x11.2x6.5	FATX		20		20
	18B1	105	6.8x15.3x3.3	FATX		70		70
	18B1	105	7.5x11.3x10.2	FATX		70		70
	18B1	280	8.4x20.2x18.3	FATX		80		80
	18B1	280	7.5x17.9x17.1	FATX		80		80
	16B81X	253300	12.4x13.3x24.9	LPX		10		11
	16B81X	253300	12.4x13.3x24.9	LPX		10		11
3	16B81X	125413	13.6x3.4	NLX		10		11
	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
4	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
5	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
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	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
6	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
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	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
7	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
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	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
8	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
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	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
9	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
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	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
10	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
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	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
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11	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
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	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
18	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
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	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
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	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
19	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
	16B81X	250	12.5x14.1x22.9	LPX		10		11
	16B81X	250						

Model Starts with:
 for Slim Case
 for Desktop Case
 for Mini-Mid Case
 for Mid Case
 for FullFile Server Case

Slide Open: Slide Panel can be removed independently from the front door.
 Sliding front door up and down
 Slide MIB Plate: Motherboard tray ca slide in and out

Size = MOTHERBOARD SIZE • F = FULL SIZE • B = BABY
 -ATX, M-ATX, Mini-ITX, Micro-ATX
 POWER SUPPLY WITH HARDWARE
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PC-V9M

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PC-18X

PC-18

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408 ATX

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Filter

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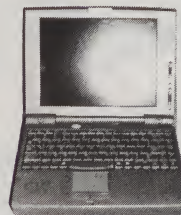
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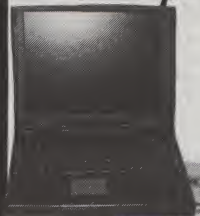
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- battery & adapter
- refurbished
- 56k fax modem

K6/2-400 64/4.0 gig 24x 14.1" Active

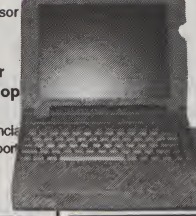
Compaq \$999



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- 64 meg ram
- 4.0 Gig HDD
- 14.1" Active Color
- 24x cd rom, 1.44 floppy
- 32 bit sound
- Touchpad, sound, pcmcia
- Serial, Parallel, Vga ports
- battery & adapter
- refurbished
- 56 fax modem

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- 12.1" Active Color
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- Touchpad & pcmcia
- Serial, Parallel, Vga ports
- battery & adapter
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- 56k fax modem

K6/2-475 32/5.0 Gig HPA 24x CD

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- 5.0 Gig HDD
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- Serial, Parallel, Vga ports
- battery & adapter
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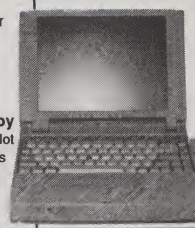
IBM \$699



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- 16 bit sound card
- 8x cd rom, 1.44 floppy
- Accupointer & pcmcia slot
- Serial, Parallel, Vga ports
- battery & adapter
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IBM \$599



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- 12.1" Active Color
- 8x cd rom
- 16 bit sound
- 1.44 3 1/2 Floppy
- accupointer & pcmcia slot #
- Serial, Parallel, Vga ports
- battery & adapter
- refurbished
- 28.8 fax

Pentium 133 processor 48/2.0 Active 8x

IBM \$499



- Pentium 133
- 48 meg ram
- 2.0 Gig HDD
- 12.1" Active Color
- 8x CD Rom
- 16 bit sound,
- 1.44 3 1/2 Floppy
- Accupointer, pcmcia
- Serial, Parallel, Vga ports
- Battery & adapter
- refurbished
- 28.8k fax modem

Pentium 133 40/1.0 gig 4x CD Active

NEC \$449



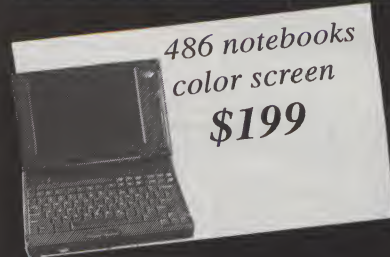
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- 40 meg ram
- 1.0 gig HDD
- 10.1" Active Color
- 4x CD rom
- 16 bit sound
- 1.44 3 1/2 Floppy
- pcmcia
- Trackball
- 28.8k fax modem
- Refurbished

Pentim 133 32/1.0 Active

IBM 299



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- 1.08 gig HDD
- 12.1" Active Color
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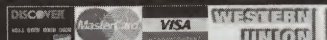
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- Altec Lansing ACS-54 Powercube 5-Speakers set with Subwoofer
- PS/2 Keyboard, PS/2 Mouse
- Microsoft Windows-98 Second edition
- 3 Years Parts, Lifetime Labor Warranty

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- Sound Blaster Live MP3+ Sound Card
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- Altec Lansing ACS-33 Powercube 3-Speakers set with Subwoofer
- PS/2 Keyboard, PS/2 Mouse
- Microsoft Windows-98 Second edition
- Corel Word Perfect Office-2000
- McAfee Virus Scan
- 3 Years Parts, Lifetime Labor Warranty

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AMD Athlon™ 900MHz	\$1649
AMD Athlon™ 1000MHz	\$1879

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- 10x Max Variable Speed DVD-ROM
- Sound Pro-32 3D Sound Card
- Altec Lansing ACS-33 Powercube 3-Speakers set with Subwoofer
- PS/2 Keyboard, PS/2 Mouse
- Microsoft Windows-98 Second edition
- Corel Word Perfect Office-2000
- McAfee Virus Scan
- 3 Years Parts, Lifetime Labor Warranty

AMD Duron™ 600MHz	\$899
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AMD Athlon™ 800MHz	\$1049
AMD Athlon™ 900MHz	\$1149
AMD Athlon™ 1000MHz	\$1379

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- V.90 Standard 56K Fax/Modem
- Sound Pro-32 3D Sound Card
- 60W Multimedia Stereo Speakers
- PS/2 Keyboard, PS/2 Mouse
- Microsoft Windows-98 Second edition
- Corel Word Perfect Office-2000
- McAfee Virus Scan
- 3 Years Parts, Lifetime Labor Warranty

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- Sound Blaster Live Value Sound Card
- V.90 Diamond Standard 56K Fax/Modem
- 10/100BASE-T Network Card
- 19" 1280x1024 .26 SVGA Monitor
- PS/2 Keyboard, PS/2 Mouse
- Altec Lansing ACS-33 Powercube 3-Speakers Set with Subwoofer,
- Microsoft Windows-2000 Professional
- Corel Word Perfect Office-2000
- 3 Years Parts, Lifetime Labor Warranty

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- 52x Max Variable Speed CD-ROM
- Sound Blaster PCI Sound Card
- V.90 Diamond Standard 56K Fax/Modem
- 10/100BASE-T Network Card
- Tower or Desktop ATX Case
- PS/2 Keyboard, PS/2 Mouse
- Multimedia Stereo Speakers
- Microsoft Windows-98 Second edition
- Corel Word Perfect Office-2000
- 3 Years Parts, Lifetime Labor Warranty

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Pentium® III 866MHz	\$1139
Pentium® III 933MHz	\$1369
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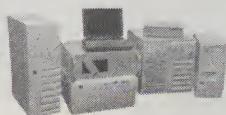
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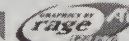
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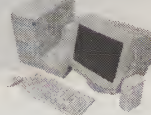


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PS/2 Enhanced Keyboard, PS/2 Mouse

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AMD Duron 700MHz \$235

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VIA Chipset, 133MHz Bus Speed, 4-PCI,
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Award PnP BIOS, 2-USB Ports, Built-in IDE
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Pentium® III 866MHz \$589
Pentium® III 933MHz \$819
Pentium® III 1000MHz . \$1089

AZUS CUV 4X \$119

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Slots, 2-USB Ports, Award PnP BIOS, Built-in
IDE UDMA/66 and I/O Controller, ATX Form
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Pentium® III 1000MHz \$1119

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Built-in IDE UDMA/100 and I/O Controller, ATX
Form Factor



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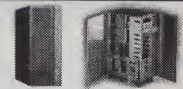
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AMD K7-600/650/700.....\$139/\$169/\$199
AMD K7-750/800/850.....\$205/\$255/\$349
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*4MPCIVGA, 1.44 floppy drive
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MS-Windows 2000.....\$175

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*Intel 810chipset, 66/100/133FSB
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Intel P3-600E/600EB.....\$1129/\$1119
Intel P3-650E/667EB.....\$1139/\$1149
Intel P3-700E/733EB.....\$1209/\$1259
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*Intel 82559 10-100BT on board
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Dual P3-650E/667EB.....\$1819/\$1839
Dual P3-700E/733EB.....\$1899/\$1949
Dual P3-750E/800EB.....\$2019/\$2229
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Oxygen GVX1, AGP, 32MB.....\$659
Evans Lightning, AGP, 32MB.....\$469
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STD28000N, 4/8GB, DDS-2, SCSI.....\$549
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SONY Tape Drive:
SDT5000K4-8GB, DDS-2, SCSI.....\$375
SDT7000K4-8GB, DDS-2, SCSI.....\$579
SDT9000K12/24GB, DDS-2, SCSI.....\$675
Quantum Tape Drive:
DLT4000, 10/20GB, DLT SCSI.....\$1295
DLT7000, 20/40GB, DLT SCSI.....\$3245
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WD205BA, 20GB, 7200rpm, 66MB.....\$159
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WD450AA, 45GB, 5400rpm, 66MB.....\$239
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Seagate-33204LW, 9GB, 10Krpm/160MB.....\$315
Seagate-318346LW, 18GB, 7200rpm/160.....\$345
Seagate-318404LW, 18GB, 10Krpm/160.....\$465
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EASY AS MP

No computer technology has caught on quite as fast or caused as much excitement among so many users as MPEG Audio Layer 3 (MP3). Two years ago, MP3 was the object of near-cult fervor among audio enthusiasts, especially those tuned into computing. Now MP3 stands at the gates of mainstream acceptance, invading college campuses and living rooms alike.

Until MP3 showed up, the WAV file format was the primary method of storing music on a computer. But the resulting audio files are bulky, with 1 minute of music consuming roughly 10MB. Thus, a 4-minute song easily translates into a 40MB WAV file. Even with gigabyte-size hard drives, WAV files eat disk space at an alarming rate. MP3, on the other hand, reduces the files to about one-tenth that size or even smaller, depending on the quality setting you choose. For instance, a 40MB WAV file squishes down to a 3.7MB MP3 file using a 128Kbps CD-quality setting. Suddenly, it's practical to keep music on your hard drive, and not just a few songs. With 5GB of hard drive space, you could conceivably stash 135 4-minute CD-quality songs—that's about 9 hours of continuous music available at your fingertips.

Converting CD audio tracks into MP3 files is a fairly simple process, and a plethora of software is available that will digitally "rip" the audio from CDs and deposit it on your computer's hard drive as MP3 files. Many MP3 purists prefer to first rip the audio as a WAV file, then convert the ripped file into a compressed MP3 file. Of course, you'll also need software to play the MP3 files.

by Bill O'Brien

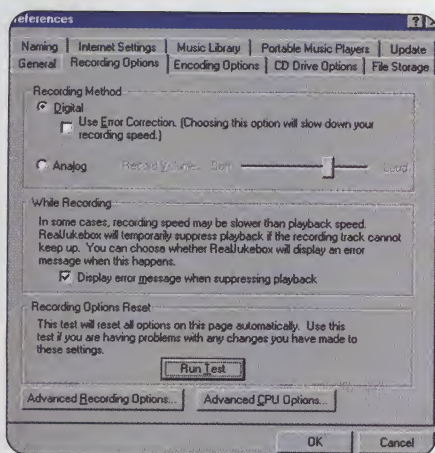
...can download combination ripper/encoders right off the Web, such as AudioCatalyst (www.xingtech.com), AudioGrabber (www.audiograbber.com), or Streambox Ripper (www.streambox.com). And if you want something that will rip, encode, and play, try MusicMatch Jukebox (www.musicmatch.com) or RealJukebox (www.real.com), also downloadable online.

This still leaves you with the small problem of portability. You can't just strap your PC to your back and take off with your music for a day at the beach. That's where portable MP3 players come into the picture, such as the Diamond Rio (www.riohome.com), RCA Lyra Digital Player (www.rca.com), and Samsung Yepp (www.samsungyepp.com).

This month's Tune-Up shows you how to get up and running in no time using Creative Technology's popular Nomad II portable MP3 player (www.creative.com). We opted for the version that comes with a 32MB SmartMedia card and sells for an estimated price of \$229. Weighing a scant 3 ounces, the device can hold up to an hour of near-CD-quality audio (recorded at 64Kbps). The Nomad II is also an FM radio and triples as a digital voice recorder. Since the SmartMedia cards are removable, you can carry several of them with you, each with a different playlist. The Nomad II connects to your PC so you can download your MP3 files to the player—and that part's a snap.

STEP 1 This is a tool-free installation. You won't need to crack open your PC to connect the Nomad II. However, you should make sure your system meets the recommended specifications: Pentium II processor, 64MB of RAM, at least 12MB of hard drive space (we suggest you plan for at least 1GB to hold all those MP3 files you'll rip and download), sound card, CD-ROM drive, USB port, Internet connection, and Windows 98.

While not essential for ripping audio from a CD, having a CD-ROM drive that supports digital audio extraction will ensure the best possible audio quality when you convert CD audio tracks to MP3 files. One simple way to determine if your system supports digital audio extraction is by downloading the free version of RealJukebox. Once you've installed it, go into the Preferences settings, click on the Recording Options tab, and select the Run Test button. (You'll need an audio CD in the drive.) If the Digital Recording Method option remains enabled, your system supports digital audio extraction. If the Analog Recording Method becomes the default selection, your drive does not support digital recording, but you can still rip audio from a CD, though it will take longer to record and may not sound quite as good. If your CD-ROM drive does not support digital recording, and MP3 is important to you, consider investing in a new drive.



copyright or copywrong?

The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) wants to put a big hurt on Web sites devoted to MP3 downloads. The RIAA is primarily concerned with rampant music piracy afforded by the easy transportability of the MP3 file format. It's a no-brainer to rip and convert a single track or an entire audio CD, and send it to a friend or post it on the Internet—even though no one other than you has actually paid a dime for that music. This isn't much different from industry concerns raised when audio and video tape first arrived on the scene. The exception is that now, with the ubiquitous nature of the Internet, pirating and sharing music has become much easier and significantly faster. You don't even have to leave home.

Napster and MP3.com are the two biggest targets for the RIAA's wrath, with Napster also coming under fire from the band Metallica. Following a well-publicized request from Metallica, Napster disabled access to 317,377 of its own users who Metallica alleges infringed the band's copyrights. Napster did this in compliance with policies outlined in the Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998 (www.gseis.ucla.edu/iclp/dmca1.htm). This involves the regular, everyday people who are actually trading and downloading MP3 files. You can learn more about these legal issues at the Copyright & Fair Use site of the Stanford University Libraries (fairuse.stanford.edu) and MP3.com's Lawsuit Central (www.mp3.com/my/news/yourmusic.html). You never know when you might be party to a tort. ▼



STEP 2 Getting the Nomad II operational is simple.

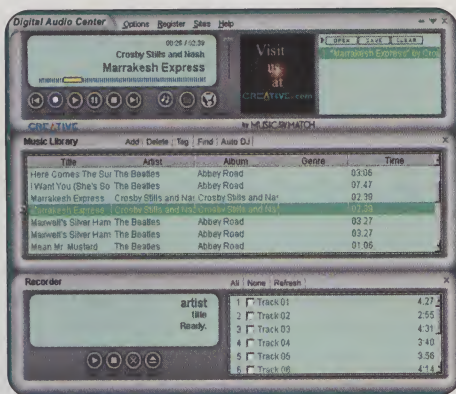
Turn the device over so its back is facing you, and remove the battery/memory-card compartment cover. Locate the memory-card eject lever at the upper-right side of the unit, and slide the lever down. (The lever needs to be in that position to insert the SmartMedia card.) Hold the SmartMedia card with the copper conductors facing down and the notched corner on the upper left. Center the card in the opening, and slide it in. You'll see the eject lever start to move upward. The lever will be back at its original position when the card is fully seated. Next, insert the battery, making sure you get the polarity right. Once you've replaced the battery/memory-card compartment cover and plugged in the wired remote and headphones, the Nomad II is ready to start playing music. But you still need to get your PC set up to download MP3s to the device.



STEP 3 Insert the Nomad II Install CD, and follow the onscreen instructions. Installation is basically hands-off once you're through the online registration pages. When installation is finished, restart your computer—but don't remove the disc yet. After the system reboots, connect the included USB cable to the Nomad II at the USB port on its left side and then to your computer. Windows will display the Add New Hardware wizard window. Select "Search for the best driver" and direct Windows to retrieve the driver from the CD-ROM drive. Windows will now install the driver, and you're ready to rock and roll.



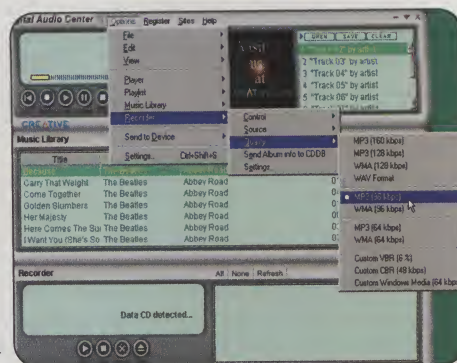
STEP 4 Moving music from your CDs to the Nomad II starts with you dropping an audio disc into your CD-ROM drive. Creative's Digital Audio Center will automatically pop up, and if you're online, it will check with the CDDb (a database with information on more than 500,000 albums). The CDDb will report back to the Digital Audio Center with information about the CD—typically, album title,



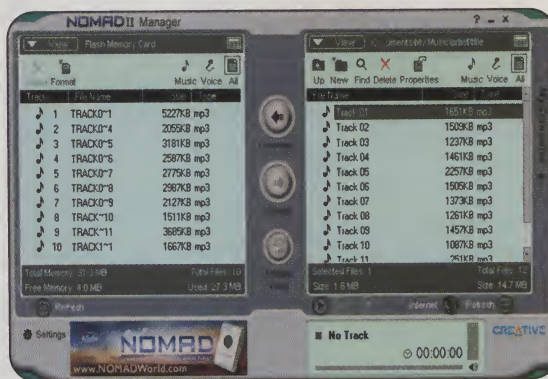
artist, and the song titles for each track. If you're not online, you'll just see the track numbers and run times.

The higher the quality setting you choose, the better the audio will sound, but the resulting files will also take up more space. Select Options from the menu bar, then select Recorder, then Quality. If you select "MP3 (96Kbps)," this near-CD-quality mode will produce files about 35 percent smaller than the CD-quality 160Kbps mode. You'll be able to download more tracks to the Nomad II and may not even be able to hear the difference.

TUNE-UP



STEP 5 To download MP3 tracks from the Digital Audio Center's playlist to the Nomad II, select Options from the menu bar, then click on Send to Device. If you need to clear the current contents of the Nomad II or just want to download some tracks from your hard drive, run the Nomad II Manager. Although you'll see an Upload button on the Manager's display, it's not for MP3 files, but rather for uploading voice recordings to your computer.



When you're done, remember to shut the Nomad II down using the Stop button on the front of the device or on the remote. (You power the unit up with the Play/Pause/Select button.) And don't overlook the fact that you can connect the Nomad II to your stereo system through the Nomad's headphone connector by purchasing a stereo-miniplug-to-RCA-jack adapter cable. ▼

mp3 on the web

On the Web, MP3 audio is about as common as instant stock quotes. MP3.com is alive with free music and in-depth news about MP3. Other prominent sites with music and MP3 details are Napster (www.napster.com) and myplay (www.myplay.com).

Any online search engine should be able to turn up some MP3 sites. Some, like AltaVista (doc.altavista.com/search_guide/sg_mp3.html), even include instructions for MP3 newbies. If you

prefer to use an FTP client, GlobalScape's CuteFTP (www.cuteftp.com) searches a bit more directly, using the music links from its site manager. An excellent site for MP3 newcomers and hard-core fans alike is ZDNet Music (music.zdnet.com), presented by Computer Shopper's parent company.

Should you find yourself hemming and hawing over which portable MP3 player to buy, check out "MP3, Is It Time to Play?" (equip.zdnet.com/gear/mp3/feature/2a52). And if you're a car-audio aficionado, empeg's site (www.empeg.com) is a must-visit. ▼

Music to Your Ears

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ALFRED POOR'S

computer cures

ALFRED POOR

CUT THE CLICKS!

Dear Alfred:

I keep getting an annoying "clicking" sound whenever I click on a link in Internet Explorer 5.0. I'm unaware of having changed any settings and can't find an option to disable this. What do I do?

Mike Collard

Choose Start/Settings/Control Panel, and select the Sounds applet. Then scroll down the Events list to the Windows Explorer section, and under Start Navigation you'll probably find that START.WAV has been assigned. Simply delete the filename from the Name box, and the click sound should stop. While you're there, you might want to look at some of the other events to which you can assign sounds. You'll find many free sources of WAV files for Windows event sounds on the Internet, such as EventSounds.com.

GHOST IN THE MACHINE?

Dear Alfred:

My system logs on to the Internet by itself every day at 4 a.m. I'd turn the system off, but I have to leave it on to receive faxes. What might be causing this?

Beverly Rigler

The likeliest answer is that a program is set to automatically update itself or poll an Internet site for information. It could be an antivirus program set to update its virus definitions every day, or some application that is downloading news updates.

You might be able to find out which program is doing this by shutting all your programs down, then starting them one at a time with your system's clock set to just before 4 a.m., and seeing if your system connects. Keep opening programs until you find the culprit, and then you can hopefully alter the program's settings to prevent its nocturnal ramblings.

WOODEN PENTIUM

Dear Alfred:

I've seen some attractive wooden computer cases, such as those at the TechStyle Computers site (www.techstyle-com.com), and would like to build my own. But what do I need to do about electromagnetic shielding?

Tobey Ruxbin

It sounds like a great project. It's possible to create shielding inside a nonmetallic case, but you might find it easier to simply start with an inexpensive metal case of the dimensions you want, then add wood to the outside. Lots of good adhesives should be able to hold the wood to the metal, and this will simplify the problems of getting the mounting holes for the motherboard, drive, and other components in the right places. However, another concern is overheating. The wood will act as an insulator, so you might need to add cooling fans to your system.

tip of the month

SEE BLIND MICE

I'm a sucker for a clever way to solve a problem at little or no cost, and this month's tip is yet another from a longtime tipster.

Dear Alfred:

Some mice have optical encoders that use infrared LEDs as a light source. Infrared light is invisible, so how can you tell if the LEDs are working when your optical mouse goes on the fritz?

It turns out that desktop video cameras see infrared light very well. You can test this by pointing your TV remote control at your camera and watching the flashes. Dismantle your ailing mouse just enough so that you can expose the LEDs so the camera can see them, then move the roller and see if the lights flash. If the lights don't show, it's time for a new mouse.

Norman Worley

That's a great tip, Norman, and when the television stops responding to the remote control, this also gives us an easy way to see if the

THE MUSIC GOES ROUND

Dear Alfred:

How can I copy music from cassettes and LPs to my PC so that I can then save them in MP3 format? Do I need a sound card with special audio input and output jacks like you'd have on a normal stereo?

Melvin Mungin

Chances are excellent that you can use your existing sound card. All it needs to have is a line-in jack. You should be able to find an adapter cable that has a stereo miniplug on one end, and a pair of RCA plugs on the other to connect to the line output of your stereo system. Then all you need is a program like Spin Doctor (included with Adaptec's Easy CD Creator 4), which records the music and can save it in different file formats, including MP3. The program even identifies the breaks between songs and can divide the recording into separate files for each track.

The tricky part is to make sure that the line-in channel of your sound card's mixer app is enabled. Double-click on the speaker icon in the Windows Tool Tray, choose Options/Properties, select Recording settings, then make sure that Line In is enabled. Finally, make sure it's set at an appropriate volume on the mixer screen. ▼



remote has lost its programming or just needs new batteries.

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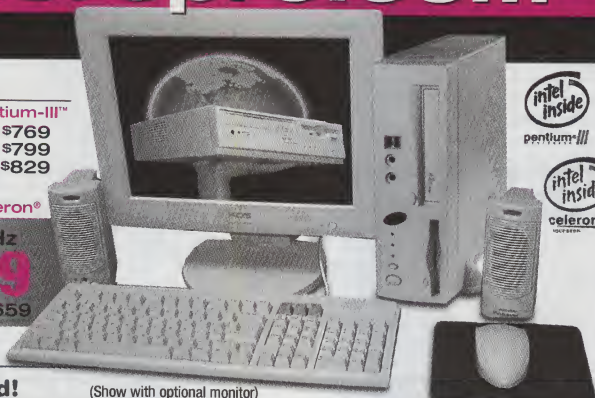
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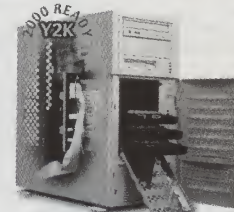
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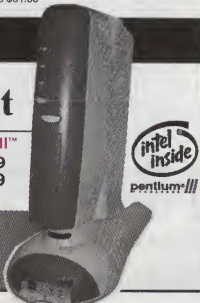
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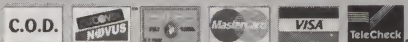
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BUYING ADVISOR

by Asa Somers

The Mother of All (Slot A) Boards

Our Advisor finds the best motherboard, rigged with an 800MHz Athlon processor, to soup up an aging system.

WHEN IT COMES TO upgrading, it's downright daunting to swap out the motherboard in a computer. Some do-it-yourselfers may do it for the sheer challenge, but most tackle this task because they need to jump-start a sputtering machine.

Take, for instance, Jon Rembold, who wants to beef up his computer to help manage his long-haul trucking business in Everett, Wash. Rembold has become increasingly hamstrung by the slow performance of the 300MHz K6-2 engine powering his current system, so he wanted to add power to handle both business apps and the flight sims he enjoys in his spare time.

Beyond games, Rembold also has higher graphics goals that will require some heavy-duty CPU firepower. "I was trained to be a photographer," he says. "I've got a scanner, and I manipulate photographs. I also want to purchase a digital camcorder so I can experiment with [digital video]."

Rembold decided to go the Athlon route mainly due to the favorable pricing of the chips compared with equally fast Pentium IIIs. He's settled on 800MHz as a target speed because it's not as expensive as the top-flight 1GHz chip, but neither is it prone to quick obsolescence. Choosing the Athlon means Rembold needs a motherboard equipped with the Slot A CPU interface.

When looking for system components, we always turn first to Price Watch (www.pricewatch.com), an indispensable site for high-tech tinkers. The first thing we discovered is that while CPUs and motherboards are often sold separately, you'll generally find the best price in a packaged deal. Plus, you know the CPU and motherboard will be compatible.

Because Rembold is a gamer, he wants a motherboard that supports 4x AGP to accommodate a high-end graphics card. It

should also support the new 133MHz SDRAM chips. The least expensive board we found on Price Watch was the **Spacewalker AI61** from Shuttle, which was selling for \$348.75 (including shipping) at Accubyte (www.accubyte.com).

This board, based on the original AMD71 (Irongate) chip set, does not support PC133 memory, however. Though the Spacewalker board does have an AGP slot, the card only supports 2x AGP. The future standard of 4x is

► CHALLENGE

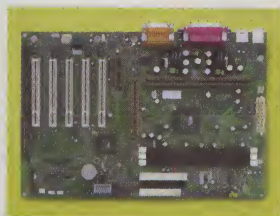
USER PROFILE

Jon Rembold, a small-business owner and big-time graphics user who needs to upgrade his processor

COMPUTING NEEDS

A motherboard that can handle an 800MHz Athlon CPU, with support for 133MHz SDRAM and 4x AGP graphics cards

optimized for today's cutting-edge graphics accelerators. Because Rembold is awaiting delivery of a 3dfx Voodoo5 5500, a gourmet graphics card that will make his flight simulations cruise along at a fantastic clip, we decided to keep looking for a better-performing motherboard with more advanced features.



Biostar M7MKE

For a while, AMD's Irongate chip set was the only Slot A game in town. But early this year, Via Technologies began volume shipments of its KX133 chip set, which began appearing in motherboards with a number of new features, including support for a 200MHz front-side bus, PC133 SDRAM, and 4x AGP.

One of the most promising KX133-based motherboards we found was the **M7MKE** from Biostar. It offers all the high-end features listed above and provides five PCI slots, a 4x AGP slot, and an option for four USB ports. It was also the least expensive KX133-

based board, priced at \$362.62 (including shipping) from Hardware Pro (www.hardwarepro.com). Incidentally, this bundle shipped with dual fans already installed and a one-year warranty. (Take note: If you buy your CPU and motherboard separately, you may also have to purchase fans, which can run you an additional \$40 or so.)

Another recommended motherboard is the **Asus K7-V**, which offers many of the same features as the M7MKE but also includes support for the new AGP Pro 50 graphics standard. This new standard will accommodate future graphics cards with larger amounts of video memory and faster geometry processors. The K7-V also features additional connections for fans (should you need them), as well as the ability to easily overclock the processor, a technique that hard-core enthusiasts use to boost the clock speed of a CPU. The best price we could find on the K7-V was \$408, plus shipping, from three vendors: Hardware Pro, Tufshop.com, and United Micro (www.unitedmicro.com).

When shopping for the impressive **Abit KA7** (which includes many of the features of the Asus K7-V, plus an additional DIMM slot, support for a maximum 2GB of SDRAM, and a total of six PCI slots), we dug up one for \$410.07, including shipping, at Tufshop.com.

Any of these four options would serve Rembold and other forward-looking aficionados well. But we're sure he won't miss some of the more esoteric features

SOLUTION

THE ADVISOR'S CHOICE

The **Biostar M7MKE**, based on the Via KX133 chip set, delivers just about all the features most users would need, including support for a 200MHz front-side bus, PC133 SDRAM, 4x AGP, five PCI slots, and four USB slots. All this for \$362.62, shipping included. If you need support for future graphics cards and fans for overclocking the system, try the **Asus K7-V**. For most, however, it's overkill—and a bit pricier at \$408 plus shipping.

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provided by the Asus and Abit boards, so we're recommending the M7MKE from Biostar. It's more than \$40 cheaper than the other options and provides plenty of room for upgrading other components.

If you want help making a smart buying decision, e-mail the Buying Advisor at buying_advisor@zdnet.com.

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Slot 1 & Socket 370 Motherboard Comparison

Motherboard	Supported Bus Speed	Chipset	370 Socket	Slot 1 Socket	Max. CPU Supported	Max. Memory	UDMA 33/66	AGP/PCI/ISA Slots	On-board LAN/Modem	On-board Sound/Video	Item #	Qty 1-2 Price
SY-7SBB	66/100	SiS 600	Yes	No	600 Celeron	768	33	1/3/2	No/No	No/No	S450-1065	\$59.99
IN810S	66/100	Intel 810	No	Yes	800PIII/600 Celeron	512	66	0/3/0	No/No	Yes/Yes	MB2-IN810S	\$64.99
SB1-A	66/100	SiS 5600	No	Yes	700PIII/600 Celeron	768	33	0/3/2	No/No	Yes/No	P450-2000	\$69.99
P6BAP-A+	66/100/133	VT82C693A	Yes	No	800PIII/600 Celeron	768	66	1/4/2	No/No	Yes/No	MB2-P6BAP	\$76.99
SB3-AV	66/100	SiS620	Yes	No	600 Celeron	768	66	0/3/2	No/No	Yes/AGP	P450-1025	\$79.99
KA-6110	66/133	Via Apollo 133	Yes	Yes	800PIII/600 Celeron	768	66	1/5/2	No/No	No/No	L450-1020	\$81.99
PM-F01A	66/100	Intel BX	Yes	No	800PIII/600 Celeron	768	33	1/5/2	No/No	No/No	P450-1005	\$82.99
SM3-AV	66/100	SiS 620	Yes	No	700PIII/600 Celeron	768	66	0/3/1	No/No	Yes/Yes	P450-1030	\$84.99
P6STP-FL	66/100/133	SiS 630E	Yes	No	800PIII/600 Celeron	1024	66	1/2/0	Opt./Opt.	Yes/Yes	MB2-P6STP	\$84.99
VB-601	66/100	Intel BX	Yes	Yes	700PIII/600 Celeron	768	33	1/5/2	No/No	No/No	L450-1010	\$85.99
P964A	66/100/133	Apollo Pro 133	Yes	Yes	800PIII/600 Celeron	768	66	1/4/1	No/No	Yes/No	L451-1000	\$86.99
BA-1	66/100	Intel BX	No	Yes	700PIII/600 Celeron	768	33	1/4/3	No/No	No/No	P450-3000	\$89.99
SY-6VBA 133	66/100/133	Via Apollo 133	No	Yes	800PIII/600 Celeron	1024	66	1/5/2	No/No	No/No	S450-1010	\$92.99
GA-6VXE7+	66/100/133	Via Apollo 133	Yes	No	800PIII/600 Celeron	768	66	1/5/2	No/No	No/No	L450-4021	\$99.99
SY-7VBA 133	66/100/133	Via Apollo 133	Yes	No	800PIII/600 Celeron	768	66	1/4/3	No/No	No/No	S450-1060	\$99.99
KA-11	66/100/133	Via Apollo 133	No	Yes	800PIII/600 Celeron	1024	66	1/5/2	No/No	No/No	L450-1025	\$105.99
SY-7VCM	66/100/133	Via Apollo 133	Yes	No	800PIII/600 Celeron	1024	66	1/3/0	No/No	Yes/No	S450-1055	\$114.99
GA-6VX7-4X	66/100/133	Via Apollo 133	Yes	No	800PIII/600 Celeron	1536	66	1/5/1	No/No	Yes/No	L450-4022	\$116.99
SY-6VCA	66/100/133	Via Apollo 133	No	Yes	800PIII/600 Celeron	1536	66	1/5/1	No/No	Yes/No	S450-1011	\$116.99
SY-7VCA-133	66/100/133	Via Apollo 133	Yes	No	800PIII/600 Celeron	1536	66	1/5/1	No/No	Yes/No	S450-1050	\$119.99
BA-1D	66/100	Intel BX	No	Dual	700PIII/600 Celeron	1024	33	1/5/2	No/No	No/No	P450-4000	\$169.99

Socket 7 Motherboard Comparison

Motherboard	Chipset	Supported Bus Speed	UDMA 33/66	Cache	Max. CPU Supported	Memory SIMM/DIMM	AGP/PCI/ISA Slots	On-board LAN/Modem	On-board Sound/Video	Item #	Price
GA-5AA	Aladdin V	66/75/83/95/100	66	512KB Cache	550MHz	0/768	1/3/2	No/No	No/No	L450-4000	\$54.99
C200	Aladdin V	66/75/83/95/100	33	512KB Cache	500MHz	0/768	1/4/3	No/No	No/No	D55-C200	\$55.99
GA-5AX	Aladdin V	66/75/83/95/100	66	512KB Cache	550MHz	0/768	1/5/2	No/No	No/No	L450-4010	\$55.99
M-571LMR	TX Pro II	60/66/75	33	512KB Cache	366MHz	0/512	0/3/2	Opt/Opt	Opt/Opt	MB2-571LMR	\$69.99
SY-5EH/5	ETEQ 6639	66/75/83/95/100	33	512KB Cache	550MHz	0/768	1/3/3	No/No	No/No	S450-1045	\$77.99
5EMA+	ETEQ 6629	66/75/83/90/95/100	33	1MB Cache	550MHz	0/768	1/5/2	No/No	No	S450-1035	\$79.99
598LMR	SiS 530	66/75/83/95/100	33	1MB Cache	550MHz	0/768	0/2/1	Opt/Opt	Yes/AGP	MB2-598LMR	\$82.99
MS-599LMR	SiS 530	66/75/83/95/100	33	1MB Cache	550MHz	0/768	0/2/1	Opt/Opt	Yes/AGP	MB2-599LMR	\$82.99
SY-5SSM-5	SiS530	66/75/83/95/100	66	512KB Cache	550MHz	0/768	0/4/1	No/No	Yes/AGP	S450-1040	\$88.99
VA-503+	Via MVP3	66/75/83/95/100	33	1MB Cache	550MHz	0/768	1/3/3	No/No	No	L450-1000	\$79.99
VA7-AV	Via MVP4	66/75/83/95/100/124	66	512KB Cache	550MHz	0/768	0/5/2	No/No	Yes/AGP	P450-5000	\$89.99

Socket A & Slot A Motherboard Comparison

Motherboard	Chipset	Supported Bus Speed	Socket A	Slot A	Duron Support	UDMA 33/66	Max. CPU Supported	Memory DIMM	AGP/PCI/ISA Slots	On-board LAN/Modem	On-board Sound/Video	Item #	QTY 1-2 Price
AZ11	Via KX-133	200	Yes	No	Yes	66	1GHz	1536	1/5/0	No/No	Yes/No	L450-1040	\$149.99
GA-7IXE	AMD 751	200	No	Yes	No	66	1GHz	768	1/5/2	No/No	No/No	L450-4040	\$139.99
M-800LMR	AMD 751	200	No	Yes	No	66	1GHz	768	1/4/0	Yes/Opt.	Yes/No	MB2-M800LMR	\$129.99
SY-K7VIA	Via KX-133	200	No	Yes	No	66	1GHz	768	1/5/1	No/No	No/No	S450-2000	\$139.99
K7-Pro	AMD 751	200	No	Yes	No	66	1GHz	768	1/6/1	No/No	No/No	MB2-K7PRO	\$129.99
P6K7A	Via KX-133	200	No	Yes	No	66	1GHz	768	1/5/1	No/No	No/No	L451-2000	\$99.99

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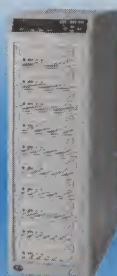
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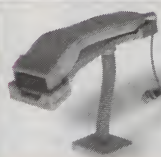
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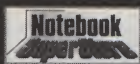
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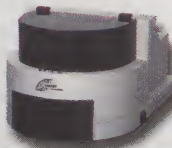
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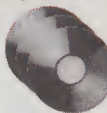
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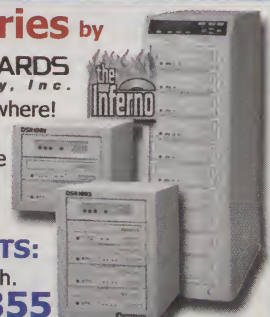


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20.0GB	512K	5400	QML20000LC	\$125
20.5GB	2MB	7200	QMP20500LM	\$155
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30.0GB	2MB	7200	QMP30000LM	\$189

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18.4GB	8MB	10,000	TY318400SCA	\$515
36.4GB	4MB	7200	XC336400SCA	\$659
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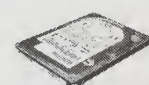


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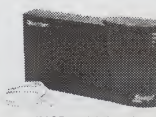
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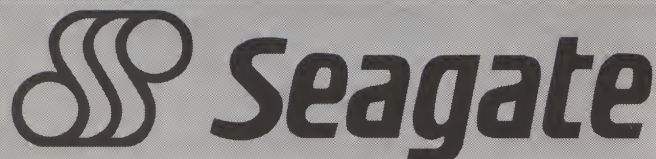
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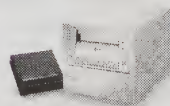


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under "Media" for a complete listing.

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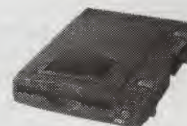
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Internal IDE for PC 5 pack (ZIP100A-5)	\$279
Internal IDE for PC 10 pack (ZIP100A-10)	\$555
Internal SCSI for PC (ZIP100)	\$95
External for PC parallel port (PPZIP100)	\$105
External for USB port (ZIP100USB)	\$105
100MB disks (ZIP100C) Qty 2-9/Qty 10+	\$12/\$10



250MB ZIP

External USB for PC or Mac (ZIP250USB)	\$175
External SCSI for PC or Mac (ZIP250)	\$155
Internal IDE (ZIP250A)	\$135
External for PC parallel port (PPZIP250)	\$135
250MB disks (ZIP250C) QTY 2-9/QTY 10+	\$19/\$17



2 GIG JAZZ

• Backwards compatible with Jaz 1 Gig disks.	
10ms read, 12ms write, 5394rpm, 512 buffer.	
Internal SCSI (JAZ21)	\$309
External SCSI (JAZ2X)	\$315
1GB Disks (JAZC1GIGPC) Qty 2-4/5-9/10+	\$80/\$77/\$75
2GB Disks (JAZC2GIGPC) Qty 2-4/5-9/10+	\$85/\$80/\$77
JAZZ ACCESSORIES	
ISA Controller (JAZIETISA) / PCI Controller (JAZIETPCI)	\$89/\$95
PCMCIA Type II Adapter (JAZPCMCIA)	\$109
Parallel Adapter Jaz Traveller (JAZPARALLEL)	\$49
Clik PC Card Drive	
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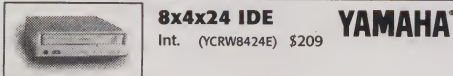


DIRT CHEAP

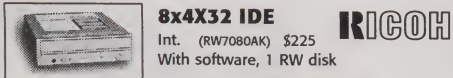
The Hottest Lineup In CDR-W, CDR, CD-Rom Drives & Accessories

IDE CDRW DRIVE

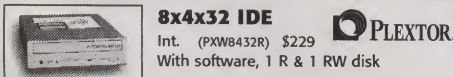
Packet write and tray load



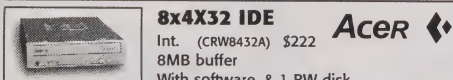
8x4x24 IDE YAMAHA
Int. (YCRW8424E) \$209



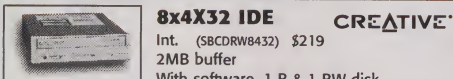
8x4x32 IDE RICOH
Int. (RW7080AK) \$225
With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk



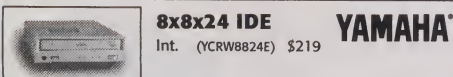
8x4x32 IDE PLEXTOR
Int. (PXW8432R) \$229
With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk



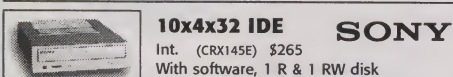
8x4x32 IDE Acer
Int. (CRW8432A) \$222
8MB buffer
With software, & 1 RW disk



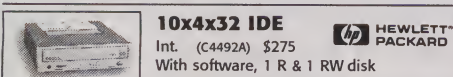
8x4x32 IDE CREATIVE
Int. (SBCDRW8432) \$219
2MB buffer
With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk



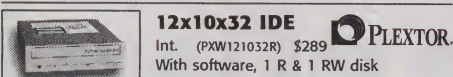
8x8x24 IDE YAMAHA
Int. (YCRW8824E) \$219



10x4x32 IDE SONY
Int. (CRX145E) \$265
With software, 1 R & 1 RW disk



10x4x32 IDE HEWLETT-PACKARD
Int. (C4492A) \$275
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12x10x32 IDE PLEXTOR
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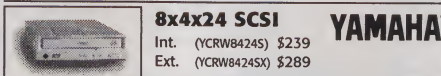
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Print Your Own CDs!
Premiere Signature III

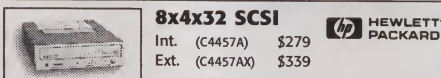
Your CD's will look professional quality with this color CD printer. Prints on printable CD's. Compatible with PC or Macintosh systems. (CDPRINTER3) **\$1069**

SCSI CDRW DRIVE

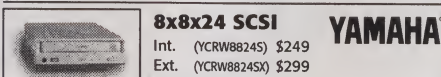
Packet write and tray load



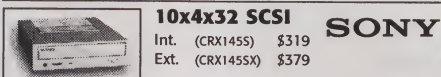
8x4x24 SCSI YAMAHA
Int. (YCRW8424S) \$239
Ext. (YCRW8424SX) \$289



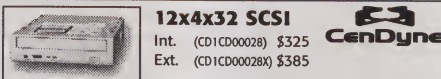
8x4x32 SCSI HEWLETT-PACKARD
Int. (C4457A) \$279
Ext. (C4457AX) \$339



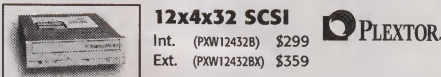
8x8x24 SCSI YAMAHA
Int. (YCRW8824S) \$249
Ext. (YCRW8824SX) \$299



10x4x32 SCSI SONY
Int. (CRX145S) \$319
Ext. (CRX145SX) \$379



12x4x32 SCSI CenDyne
Int. (CD1CD0002B) \$325
Ext. (CD1CD00028X) \$385

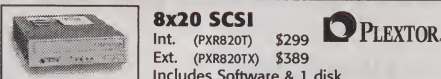


12x4x32 SCSI PLEXTOR
Int. (PXW12432B) \$299
Ext. (PXW12432BX) \$359

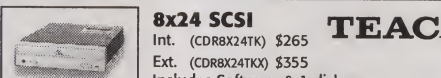
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CD DRIVE CONTROLLERS

Add A Controller — If Needed

For a complete listing of controllers including RAID, See Page 8

ADAPTEC		
A1505CDKIT	ISA 16 Bit SCSI (no hard drive support)	\$49
A2906EKIT	PCI 32 Bit SCSI (For PC or Mac)	\$54
T1350	EPP Parallel to SCSI adapter	\$69
T1460A2KIT	PCMCIA type 2, 3, or 4 to SCSI	\$125
T1480A	CardBus to Ultra SCSI	\$169
A2940UKIT	PCI 32 bit Ultra SCSI controller	\$229
TEKRAM		
DC315U	32 Bit PCI SCSI controller - no bios	\$23
DC390	32 Bit PCI SCSI controller	\$36
DC390U	32 Bit PCI Ultra SCSI controller	\$75
DC390F	32 Bit PCI Ultra Wide SCSI controller	\$72
DC390U2	32 Bit PCI Ultra-2 SCSI controller	\$117
DC390U2W	32 Bit PCI Ultra-2 SCSI Dual Channel controller	\$143
PROMISE		
ULTRA66	PCI, Supports Ultra-66 IDE drives	\$29
FASTTRAK66	PCI, Supports Ultra ATA-66 IDE drives	\$85
ULTRA100	PCI, Supports Ultra ATA-100 drives	\$45
FASTTRAK100	PCI, SUPPORTS ULTRA ATA-100 RAID 0+1	\$115

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*Must be purchased with CD Recorder. - Retail version (EZCDCTRRTL) \$90

Toast CD-Rom Pro

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- Retail version of above (TOASTRTL) \$89

GoBack (GOBACK) \$59

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Gear Replicator (GEAR-REP) Newest Version! \$49

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Gear Suite (GEAR-SUITE) \$70

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- Includes Gear Audio, Replicator, and Web Grabber

Gear Pro for UNIX (GEAR-UNIX) \$1169

- Compatible with most UNIX workstations

Gear Pro for Windows - New & upgrade versions available \$Call

Prassi CD Mastering & duplication for Win 95/98, NT 4.0 & Win 2000

- Support up to 16 CDRs or CDR-Ws (PRIMOCDB18) \$359

- Support up to 64 CDRs or CDR-Ws (PRIMOCDB4) \$699

HYCD Publisher for PC (Windows 3.1, 95, NT) (CDRHYWIN)

- Creates hybrid CDs for PC/Mac/Unix, bootable CDs.

- Includes CD, Copy, Drag and Drop, & music utilities. \$399

Creative Digital Research CDR HYCD Publisher for Unix workstations

- Creates standard, hybrid, & bootable CDs for PC/Mac/Unix

(CDRHYUNIX) \$1559

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12x	Budget 100 pack (CDR74B-100)	\$89
12x	5 pack (CDR74-5)	\$8
12x	20 pack (CDR74-20)	\$27
12x	50 pack (CDR74-50)	\$66
12x	100 pack (CDR74-100)	\$125
12x	Platinum 5 pack (CDR74PA-5)	\$9
12x	Platinum 20 pack (CDR74PA-20)	\$29
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12x	Platinum 100 pack (CDR74PA-100)	\$129

Printable CDR-74 in jewel case

12x	Budget 5 pack (CDR74PB-5)	\$7
12x	Budget 20 pack (CDR74PB-20)	\$22
12x	Budget 50 pack (CDR74PB-50)	\$54
12x	Budget 100 pack (CDR74PB-100)	\$95
12x	5 pack (CDR74P-5)	\$10
12x	20 pack (CDR74P-20)	\$37
12x	50 pack (CDR74P-50)	\$89
12x	100 pack (CDR74P-100)	\$179

CDR-80 80 minute media in jewel case

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12x	Budget 20 pack (CDR80-20)	\$15
12x	Budget 50 pack (CDR80-50)	\$49
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Bulk! Spindle 74 minute media. Includes 50 CD-Rs (12x),
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No jewel cases included (CDR80S8-100) \$99

Bulk! Spindle 80 minute media. Includes 500 CD-Rs (12x),
No jewel cases included (CDR80S8-500) \$450

CD REWRITABLE MEDIA

CDR-74W in jewel case

4x	Budget 5 pack (CDR74WB-5)	\$8
4x	Budget 20 pack (CDR74WB-20)	\$31
4x	Budget 50 pack (CDR74WB-50)	\$69
4x	Budget 100 pack (CDR74WB-100)	\$119
4x	5 pack (CDR74W-5)	\$15
4x	20 pack (CDR74W-20)	\$65
4x	50 pack (CDR74W-50)	\$155
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Bare SCSI drive (SDW1111) **\$409**

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- DVD-RAM 1x, 120ms • DVD-ROM 2x, 85ms
- CD-ROM 20x, 85ms • 2MB buffer
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SCSI CD ROM DRIVE

Speed	Brand	Model	ms	Buffer	Int	Ext
32X	TEAC	CD532S	85	128K	\$75	\$165
32X	PLEXTOR	PX32CS (CADDY)	85	512K	\$140	\$230
40X	NEC	CDR3010	85	256K	\$72	\$162
40X	TOSHIBA	XM6401B	85	256K	\$82	\$172
40X	PLEXTOR	PX40TS (TRAY)	85	512K	\$93	\$183
52X	KENWOOD	UCR415	90	2MB	\$149	\$239

WIDE SCSI CD ROM

40X	Plextor	PX40TSUW	85	512K	\$99	\$189
Pioneer 24x 6 Disk external CD changer (DRM6324X)						\$395

ACCESSORIES

Universal sound cable (AUDIOMIX) \$5 • CD Driver software for Mac (RAPIDPD) \$8
CD Caddies (CDCADDY) 5-19 \$5 20+ \$4

IDE CD ROM DRIVE

Speed	Brand	Model	ms	Buffer	Drive
40X	Teac	CD540E	85	128K	\$49
40X	NEC	CDR3000	75	128K	\$49
48X	Toshiba	XM6702B	85	256K	\$53
48X	Mitsumi	CRMCFX48X	65	256K	\$47
50X	Acer	CD650P	85	128K	\$47
52X	Creative	SBCE52	100	256k	\$47
52X	Kenwood	UCR412	90	2MB	\$82
72X	Kenwood	UCR421	100	2MB	\$112

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Sound Blaster 512 (SBPC512)	\$67
Platinum (SBPLATINUM)	\$182
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IDE CD ROM case for parallel printer port (PPCASECD)	\$59
IDE CD ROM case for PCMCIA port (PCMCIACD)	\$115

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NT, OS/2, & UNIX platforms using Novell Netware, Microsoft Networks & NFS**

	7 Drive 10baseT	7 Drive 10/100	13 Drive 10baseT	13 Drive 10/100
Toshiba 40X	\$1195 #TOS6401X7N	\$1309 #TOS6401X7NT	\$2059 #TOS6401X13T	\$2359 #TOS6401X13E
Plextor 40X	\$1305 #PLEX40X7N	\$1419 #PLEX40X7NT	\$2259 #PLEX40X13T	\$2565 #PLEX40X13E
NEC 40X	\$1125 #NEC3010X7N	\$1239 #NEC3010X7NT	\$1925 #NEC3010X13T	\$2225 #NEC3010X13E
Kenwood 52X	\$1739 #KEN415X7N	\$1845 #KEN415X7NT	\$3049 #KEN415X13T	\$3355 #KEN415X13E

Axis StorePoint CD Ethernet SCSI CD Controller

**Connect your SCSI CD ROM drives directly to your Ethernet
or Token Ring network without a computer. Stand alone
has its own external enclosure. Tower module mounts in
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Enclosure	Network	Max # Drives	Item #	Price
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Stand-alone	TokenRing	7	AXISCD-TR	\$545
Tower Module	Token Ring	7	AXISCD/T-TR	\$555
Tower Module	Ethernet	7	AXISCDE100	\$585
Tower Module	Ethernet	14	AXISCDE100D	\$655
Tower Module	Ethernet or Fast ethernet	7	AXISCD/DVD	\$765
Tower Module	Ethernet or Fast ethernet	14	AXISCD/DVDD	\$955

SCSI Towers 4 Drives 7 Drives

Toshiba 40X	79ms	\$399 #TOS6401X4B	\$699 #TOS6401X7B
Plextor 40X	85ms	\$439 #PLEX40X4B	\$779 #PLEX40X7B
Plextor 40X	85ms	\$519 #PLEX40WX4B	\$899 #PLEX40WX7B
NEC 40X	85ms	\$369 #NEC3010X4B	\$649 #NEC3010X7B
Kenwood 52X	85ms	\$729 #KEN415X4B	\$1279 #KEN415X7B

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2 1394 ports & 2 USB external ports for plug and play peripherals.

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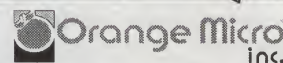
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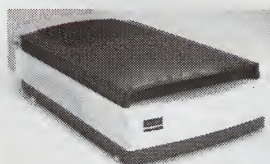


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(SPKG14006)

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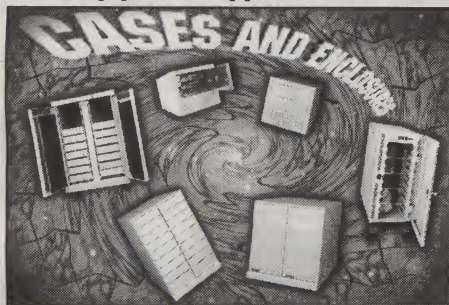
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SCSI ID switch, and gold plated connectors. Plastic construction with metal top and bottom covers on cartridge.

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EXTRA CARTRIDGE

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Ultra Wide SCSI (DPUWFRAME) \$79

DATAPORT VI

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SCA (uses SCA drives) (DPSCACART) \$89 \$109

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IDE/Ultra SCSI/Ultra Wide SCSI \$79/\$89/\$89

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EXTRA CARTRIDGE

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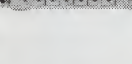
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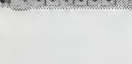
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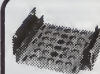


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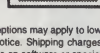
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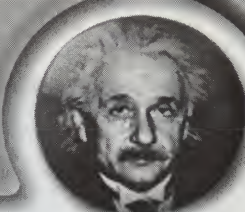
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Intel PIII-600E	\$184
Intel PIII-600B	\$184
Intel PIII-600EB	\$184
Intel PIII-650E	\$184
Intel PIII-667EB	\$179
Intel PIII-700E	\$220
Intel PIII-733EB	\$249
Intel PIII-750E	\$266
Intel PIII-800E	\$389

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Intel PIII-550E	\$155
Intel PIII-600E	\$185
Intel PIII-600EB	\$185
Intel PIII-650E	\$175
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AMD-K7 Athlon™ 600MHz Processor	\$116
AMD-K7 Athlon™ 650MHz Processor	\$141
AMD-K7 Athlon™ 700MHz Processor	\$155
AMD-K7 Athlon™ 750MHz Processor	\$185
AMD-K7 Athlon™ 800MHz Processor	\$234
AMD-K7 Athlon™ 850MHz Processor	\$317
AMD-K7 Athlon™ 900MHz Processor	\$423
AMD-K7 Athlon™ 950MHz Processor	\$585
AMD-K7 Athlon™ 1GHz Processor	\$825
AMD Duron™ 600MHz Processor	\$80
AMD Duron™ 650MHz Processor	\$112
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45 GB	5400RPM	\$210

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13.0 GB	5400RPM	\$95
17.0 GB	5400RPM	\$95
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AST		8MB	16MB	32MB	64MB	BATTERY
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Ascentia J Series Kit		\$35	\$62	\$126		\$205
Ascentia P Series		\$55	\$79	\$149		\$299
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Contura 4/25 C, 4/25, 4/25CX		\$49	\$83			\$119
Contura AERO Series		\$55	\$86			\$119
Contura 400/10/20/30 Series		\$49	\$86			\$119
Presario 1600 Series				\$56	\$106	\$140
Presario 1200 Series			\$52	\$56	\$106	\$140
Presario 1010/20/30/60/65/70/75/80			\$59	\$129		CALL
DELL		8MB	16MB	32MB	64MB	BATTERY
Latitude 433m-475mc Series			\$86			\$119
Latitude LX Series 410D/T/4750			\$86			\$119
Latitude XP/XPI Series		\$34	\$64	\$86		\$219
Latitude LM Series			\$61	\$126	\$200	N/A
FUJITSU		8MB	16MB	32MB	64MB	BATTERY
Milan, Montego, Monte Carlo & Lifebook		\$24	\$57	\$103		N/A
Lifebook 600, 700, 900, B, C, E L			\$52	\$56	\$106	N/A
IBM		8MB	16MB	32MB	64MB	BATTERY
Think Pad 345/355/360 Series		\$44	\$88			\$119
Think Pad 365X/XD Series		\$34	\$57	\$103		\$119
Think Pad 760EX/ED/E/EL/XD/XL Series		\$34	\$57	\$103		\$145
Think Pad 750-755 Series			\$130	\$221		\$169
NEC		8MB	16MB	32MB	64MB	BATTERY
Ultra Lite Versa Series			\$96			\$134
Versa M/P 4000 Series			\$96	\$144		CALL
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PC-87/88/8900 Series			\$91			\$132
PC-9040/70 Series		\$32	\$64			N/A
PC-9000 Series			\$83	\$154		\$145
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ABZM6	PPGA	5	2	1	3/168	440LX	ATX	\$90
ABVT64X	PIII-800	5	1	1	3/168	VIA133	ATX	\$94
ABVH6	PIII-933	5	1	1	AMR3/168	VIA133	ATX	\$105
ABWX6	PPGA	5			2/168	810	ATX	\$107
ABBF6	PIII-600	6	1	1	3/168	440BX	ATX	\$100
ABWB6	PIII-733	3	1	AMR	3/168	810E	ATX	\$120
ABBE62	PIII-600	5	1	1	3/168	440BX	ATX	\$124
ABBP6	DUAL	5	2	1	3/168	440BX	ATX	\$137
ABKA7	K7	6	1	1	4/168	VIA	ATX	\$148
ABKA7-100	K7	6	1	1	4/168	VIA	ATX	\$163

ASUS

www.asus.com

SKU	CPU	PCI	ISA	AGP	MEM	CHPSET	STYLE	PRICE
ASP5AB	SOCKET7	3	2	1	3/168	M1541	ATX	\$86
ASP5A	SOCKET7	5	2	1	3/168	M1541	ATX	\$91
ASP5AA	SOCKET7	5	2	1	3/168	M1541	ATX	\$99
ASP299	PII-600	4	3	1	3/168	440ZX	ATX	\$99
ASP299B	PII-600	3	2	1	3/168	440ZX	AT	\$101
ASP3V4X	PII-733	6	1	1	4/168	VIA133	ATX	\$113
ASP3V	PII-733	5	2		3/168	810	ATX	\$107
ASCUV4X	FCPGA	5	1	1	3/168	VIA	ATX	\$121
ASP2BB	PII-600	3	2	1	3/168	440BX	AT	\$123
ASP3BF	PII-600	5	2	1	4/168	440BX	ATX	\$123
ASCUVE-RM	FCPGA	3		AMR	3/168	810	ATX	\$127
ASP3WE	PII-733	6		AMR	3/168	810	ATX	\$140
ASK7M-WA	K7	6	1	1	3/168	VIA	ATX	\$139
ASK7V-WO	K7	5		1	3/168	VIA	ATX	\$153
ASAV7-WO	SOCKET A K7	5		1	AMR3/168	VIA	ATX	\$156
ASK7V-WA	K7	5		1	3/168	VIA	ATX	\$155
ASP2BL	PII-600	4	2	1	4/168	440BX	ATX	\$167
ASP2BVM	PII-600	3	1	1	3/168	440BX	ATX	\$172
ASP3CE	PII-733	5	1	1	2/RIMM	820	ATX	\$185
ASP2BD	DUAL	4	2	1	4/168	440BX	ATX	\$266
ASP2BS	PII-600	4	2	1	4/168	440BX	ATX	\$304
ASP2BL5	PII-600	4	2	1	4/168	440BX	ATX	\$347
ASP3CD	DUAL	5		1	3/RIMM	820	ATX	\$367
ASP2BDS	DUAL	4	2	1	4/168	440BX	ATX	\$444
ASP3CS	PII-733	5	1	1	2/RIMM	820	ATX	\$414
ASXGDL5	DUALXeon	5	1	1	4/168	440GX	ATX	\$734

FIC

www.fica.com

SKU	CPU	PCI	ISA	AGP	MEM	CHPSET	STYLE	PRICE
FICVA-503+	SOCKET7	3	3	1	3/168	VIA	AT	\$69
FICPA-2013	SOCKET7	4	2	1	3/168	VIA/MVP	AT	\$77
FICVB-601	PII-600	5	2	1	4/168	440BX	ATX	\$85
FICVA-503A	SOCKET7	4	2	1	3/168	VIA/MVP	AT	\$80
FICSD11	K7	5		1	3/168	VIA	ATX	\$114
FICAZ11	SOCKET A K7	5		1	3/168	VIA	ATX	\$142

intel

www.intel.com

SKU	CPU	PCI	ISA	AGP	MEM	CHPSET	STYLE	PRICE
INSE440BX2NA	PII-600	4	2	1	3/168	440BX	ATX	\$101
INSE440BX2	PII-600	4	2	1	3/168	440BX	ATX	\$106
INVC820WA	PIII-933	5	1	AMR	2/RIMM	820	ATX	\$114
INVD815EEA	370-933	5		CNR	3/168	815E	ATX	\$153
INN440BX	DUAL	4	2		4/168	440BX	ATX	\$419

MICROSTAR

www.microstarinternational.com

SKU	CPU	PCI	ISA	AGP	MEM	CHPSET	STYLE	PRICE
MICMS-5169	SOCKET7	4	3	1	3/168	ALI	ATX	\$79
MICMS-6153VA	FCPGA	3		AMR	2/168	ALI	ATX	\$82
MICMS-6163PROPII-600	5	2	1	3/168		440BX	ATX	\$94
MICMS-6309	370-933	5	1	1+AMR3	3/168	VIA	ATX	\$97
MICMS-6195	K7	6	1	1	3/168	AMD	ATX	\$108
MICMS-6301	PII-733	5	1	1	3/168	820	ATX	\$132
MICK77PRO	SOCKET A K7	6		1	3/168	VIA	ATX	\$151
MICMS-815PRO	370-933	6		CNR	4/168	815E	ATX	\$161
MICMS-694DPRO	DUAL370	5		1+CNR	4/168	815E	ATX	\$182

TYAN

www.tyan.com

SKU	CPU	PCI	ISA	AGP	MEM	CHPSET	STYLE	PRICE
TYS1590S	SOCKET7	4	4	1	3/168	VIA	AT	\$89
TYS1598S	SOCKET7	5	2	1	3/168	VIA	ATX	\$94
TYS1854	PPGAS/LOT1	6	1	1	3/168	VIA	ATX	\$96
TYS1830S	PII-550	3	3	1	4/168	449BX	AT	\$112
TYS1598C2	SOCKET7	5	2	1	3/168	VIA	ATX	\$113
TYS2380	K7	6	1	1	3/168	VIA	ATX	\$128
TYS1834	DUAL	6	1	1	4/168	VIA	ATX	\$149
TYS1832DL	DUAL	4	1	1	4/168	440BX	ATX	\$166
TYS1952DLU	DUALXeon	5	1	1	4/168	440GX	ATX	\$529
TYS2257DUAN	DUAL	6	1	1	4/168	840	ATX	\$619

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intel

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INTEL CELERON-A FCPGA	633MHZ	128K	\$159
INTEL CELERON-A FCPGA	667MHZ	128K	\$184
INTEL CELERON-A FCPGA	700MHZ	128K	\$207
INTEL PENTIUM II	400MHZ	512K	\$119
INTEL PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	533MHZ	256K FCPGA	\$149
INTEL PENTIUM III	550MHZ	256K FCPGA	\$172
INTEL PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	600MHZ	256K FCPGA	\$199
INTEL PENTIUM III	600MHZ	256K FCPGA	\$199
INTEL PENTIUM III	650MHZ	256K FCPGA	\$199
INTEL PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	667MHZ	256K FCPGA	\$199
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INTEL PENTIUM III	600MHZ	512K SECC	\$192
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INTEL PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	667MHZ	256K SECC	\$199
INTEL PENTIUM III	700MHZ	256K SECC	\$224
INTEL PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	733MHZ	256K SECC	\$229
INTEL PENTIUM III	750MHZ	256K SECC	\$264
INTEL PENTIUM III	800MHZ	256K SECC	\$299
INTEL PENTIUM III 133MHZ BUS	800MHZ	256K SECC	\$299
INTEL PENTIUM III	850MHZ	256K SECC	\$459
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AMD

www.amd.com

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AMD K6 II W/3D NOW	P475MHZ (100 MHZ)	\$49
AMD K6 II W/3D NOW	P500MHZ (100 MHZ)	\$56
AMD K6 II W/3D NOW	P533MHZ (95 MHZ)	\$54
AMD K6 II W/3D NOW	P550MHZ (100 MHZ)	\$71
AMD DURON	P600MHZ (200 MHZ)	\$82
AMD DURON	P650MHZ (200 MHZ)	\$105
AMD DURON	P700MHZ (200 MHZ)	\$152
AMD K7 ATHLON	P600MHZ (200 MHZ)	\$125
AMD K7 ATHLON	P650MHZ (200 MHZ)	\$151
AMD K7 ATHLON	P700MHZ (200 MHZ)	\$177
AMD K7 ATHLON	P750MHZ (200 MHZ)	\$181
AMD K7 ATHLON	P800MHZ (200 MHZ)	\$239
AMD K7 ATHLON	P850MHZ (200 MHZ)	\$327
AMD K7 ATHLON	P900MHZ (200 MHZ)	\$434
AMD K7 ATHLON	P950MHZ (200 MHZ)	\$599
AMD K7 ATHLON	P1000MHZ (200 MHZ)	\$829
AMD K7 ATHLON THUNDERBIRD	P650MHZ (200 MHZ)	\$162
AMD K7 ATHLON THUNDERBIRD	P700MHZ (200 MHZ)	\$165
AMD K7 SOCKET A TBIRD	P700MHZ (200 MHZ)	\$172
AMD K7 SOCKET A TBIRD	P800MHZ (200 MHZ)	\$259
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72-PIN TRUE PARITY

16MB	4X36	60NS	\$42
32MB	8X36	60NS	\$85
64MB	16X36	60NS	\$136
128MB	32X36	60NS	\$329

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8MB	2X32 EDO	60NS	\$13
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32MB	8X32 EDO	60NS	\$72
64MB	16X32 EDO	60NS	\$58
128MB	32X32 EDO	60NS	\$219

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128MB	16X64	60NS 3.3VOLT	\$199
128MB	16X72 (unbuffered)	60NS 3.3VOLT ECC	\$249
128MB	16X72 (buffered)	60NS 3.3VOLT ECC	\$249
256MB	32X72 (buffered)	60NS 3.3VOLT ECC	\$479

168-PIN LONG DIMMS SDRAM WITH EPROM (66MHz)

32MB	4X64	10NS	\$32
64MB	8X64	10NS	\$69
128MB	16X64	10NS	\$139

168-PIN SDRAM WITH EPROM PC100/133

32MB	4X64	8NS	\$35
64MB	8X64	8NS	\$67
64MB PC133	8X64	7.5NS	\$69
64MB	8X72	8NS 3.3VOLT ECC	\$82
128MB	16X64	8NS	\$129
128MB PC133 16X64		7.5NS	\$132
128MB	16X72	8NS 3.3VOLT ECC	\$159
128MB PC133 16X72		7.5NS 3.3VOLT ECC	\$162
256MB	32X64	8NS	\$292
256MB PC133 32X64		7.5NS	\$279
256MB	32X72	8NS	\$319
256MB PC133 32X72		7.5NS 3.3VOLT ECC	\$354
512MB	64X72	8NS	\$559

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MATMEC200	G200 8MB, SDRAM AGP OEM (FIXED)	\$55
MAT400SDR16	G400 16MB, SDRAM AGP OEM (SING)	\$89
MAT400DUAL32	G400 32MB, SDRAM AGP OEM (DUAL)	\$134
MAT400MAXD32	G400 32MB, SDRAM AGP OEM (DUAL)	\$194

DIAMOND

www.diamondmm.com

DISS8MB	SPEED STAR 8MB SDRAM AGP OEM	\$30
DIST3S540	STEALTH III S540 16MB AGP OEM	\$48
DISS16MB	SPEED STAR 16MB SDRAM AGP OEM	\$44
DIST3S54032MB	STEALTH III S540 32MB AGP OEM	\$62
DIV770-2S432MBVIPER	V770-2 W/TV 32MB AGP OEM	\$126

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ATIAIW8A	ALL-IN-WONDER AGP OEM 8MB SGRAM	\$97
ATIX998A	EXPERT 99 AGP OEM VER 8MB	\$47
ATIR16A	EXPERT RAGE AGP OEM VER 16MB	\$67
ATIX200032A	EXPERT 2000 AGP OEM VER 32MB	\$71
ATIRFPRO16	RAGE FURY PRO AGP OEM 16MB W/TV	\$89
ATIRFPRO32	RAGE FURY PRO AGP OEM 32MB W/TV	\$93
ATIAIW16A	ALL-IN-WONDER AGP OEM 16MB	\$125
ATIRFMAX64	RAGE FURY MAX AGP OEM 64MB W/TV	\$151
ATIAIW32A	ALL-IN-WONDER AGP OEM 32MB W/TV	\$176
ATIAIW32PCI	ALL-IN-WONDER PCI OEM 32MB W/TV	\$177
ATIAIWPRO32A	ALL-IN-WONDER PRO AGP OEM 32MB	\$219

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MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
WD75AA*	7500	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$74
WD102AA*	10200	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$78
WD136AA*	13600	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$80
WD153AA*	15300	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$88
WD100BA*	10000	9 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$91
WD102BA*	10200	9 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$93
WD153BA*	15300	9 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$105
WD205AA*	20500	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$94
WD200BA*	20000	9 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$129
WD205BA*	20500	9 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$129
WD307AA*	30700	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$131
WD450AA*	45000	9.5MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$182

FUJITSU

www.fujitsu.com

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
FUJ3084AT	8400	10MS/5400	128K	3.5"/1" H	\$74
FUJ3130AT*	13000	10MS/5400	512K	3.5"/1" H	\$79
FUJ3017AT*	17000	10MS/5400	512K	3.5"/1" H	\$95
FUJ3024AT*	20400	10MS/5400	512K	3.5"/1" H	\$99
FUJ3136AH*	13600	9.5MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$99

Maxtor

www.maxtor.com

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
MAX1025400*	10200	9 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$77
MAX1027200*	10200	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$92
MAX1367200*	13600	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$108
MAX1535400*	15300	9.5 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$83
MAX1537200*	15300	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$104
MAX2045400*	20400	9.5 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$96
MAX2047200*	20400	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$129
MAX2737200*	27300	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$165
MAX4095400*	40900	9 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$127
MAX4097200*	40900	9.5 MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$219
MAX4615400*	46100	9 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$139
MAX6145400*	61400	9 MS/5400	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$247

Quantum

www.quantum.com

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
QU310200LB*	10200	8.9MS/5400	512K	3.5"/1" H	\$86
QU310200LM*	10200	8.9MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$99
QU315000LB*	15000	8.9MS/5400	512K	3.5"/1" H	\$94
QU315000LM*	15000	8.9MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$114
QU326000LA*	26000	8.9MS/5400	512K	3.5"/1" H	\$137
QU330000LB*	30000	8.9MS/5400	512K	3.5"/1" H	\$147
QU330000LM*	30000	8.9MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$197

NOTEBOOK DRIVES

TOSHIBA

www.toshiba.com

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
TO4313MAT	4300	13MS/4200	1024K	2.5"/8.4MM	\$122
TO6015MAP	6000	13MS/4200	1024K	2.5"/9.5MM	\$119
TO1214GAP	12000	13MS/4200	1024K	2.5"/9.5MM	\$172
TO1814GAV	18100	13MS/4200	1048K	2.5"/12MM	\$249

IBM

www.ibm.com

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
IBM206000	6000	12MS/4200	512K	2.5"/12.5MM	\$127
IBM206480	6480	12MS/4200	512K	2.5"/9.5MM	\$142
IBM208100	81000	12MS/4200	512K	2.5"/12.5MM	\$159
IBM212000	12000	12MS/4200	512K	2.5"/9.5MM	\$189
IBM225000	25000	12MS/4200	512K	2.5"/17MM	\$519

NETWORK CARDS

3Com

www.3com.com

3C905BTXNM	ETHERNET RJ45 10/100BT W/REMOTE WAKE PCI	\$41
3C905CTXM	ETHERNET RJ45 10/100BT W/REMOTE WAKE PCI	\$43

Ultra Narrow & Wide SCSI DRIVES

WESTERN DIGITAL

www.wdc.com

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
WD18300LW	18300	6.9MS/7200	4096K	3.5"/1" H	\$199
WD91FG	9100	6.6MS/10000	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$162
WD9150U160	9100	5.2MS/10000	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$179
WD18310LW	18300	5.2MS/10000	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$241
WD18310U160	18300	5.2MS/10000	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$254

Seagate

www.seagate.com

MODEL#	CAP.(MB)	ACCESS/RPM	CACHE	FORM/HT	PRICE
ST34520N	4500	10 MS/7200	512K	3.5"/1" H	\$182
ST34520V	4500	10 MS/7200	512K	3.5"/1" H	\$189
ST39140N	9100	10 MS/7200	512K	3.5"/1" H	\$242
ST39140W	9100	10 MS/7200	512K	3.5"/1" H	\$247
ST39236LW	9200	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$219
ST39216W	9200	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$219
ST39216N	9200	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$219
ST318416N	18400	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$328
ST318416W	18400	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$328
ST318436LW	18400	5.8MS/7200	2048K	3.5"/1" H	\$328
ST318404LW	18400	5.2MS/10,000	4096K	3.5"/1" H	\$289
ST136475LW	36400	7.6MS/7200	1024K	3.5"/1" H	\$764
ST136403LW	36400	5.2MS/10,000	1024K	3.5"/1" H	\$862
ST136403FC	36400	5.2MS/10,000	1024K	3.5"/1" H	\$862
ST336704LW	36700	5.2MS/10,000	4096K	3.5"/1" H	\$899
ST150176LW	50000	7.4MS/7200	1024K	3.5"/1" H	\$864
ST150176FC	50000	7.4MS/7200	1024K	3.5"/1" H	\$864
ST173404LW	73400	5.6MS/10,000	4096K	3.5"/1" H	\$1219

REMOVABLES

OMEGA

www.omega.com

MODEL#	SPEED/TRANS	INTERFACE	ACCESS	CACHE	PRICE
IOZIP100IDE	REMOVABLE DRIVE	100MB INT ZIP	IDE OEM		\$61
IOZIP100SCSI	REMOVABLE DRIVE	100MB INT ZIP	SCSI OEM		\$81
IOZIP250IDE	REMOVABLE DRIVE	250MB INT ZIP	IDE OEM		\$106
IOZIP100USB	REMOVABLE DRIVE	100MB EXT ZIP	USB		\$127
IOZIP250USB	REMOVABLE DRIVE	250MB EXT ZIP	USB		\$167
IOSCSI2GBEXT	REMOVABLE DRIVE	2GB EXT JAZ	SCSI		\$309
IOSCSI2GBINT	REMOVABLE DRIVE	2GB INT JAZ	SCSI		\$309

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TOSHIBA

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MODEL#	SPEED/TRANS	INTERFACE	ACCESS	CACHE	PRICE
TO6702B	48X/7200KB	ATAPI	85MS	256K	\$43
TO6401	40X/6000KB	SCSI-2	85MS	256K	\$65
TODM1402BARE	12X-40X DVD	ATAPI	135/90MS	256K	\$126

MITSUMI

www.mitsumi.com

MODEL#	SPEED/TRANS	INTERFACE	ACCESS	CACHE	PRICE
MITFX4820	48X/7200KB	ATAPI	85MS	128K	\$41
MITCDRW4804TE	4X/4X/24X	ATAPI OEM	135MS	2048K	\$139
MITCDRW4804TER	4X/4X/24X	ATAPI RETAIL	135MS	2048K	\$179

YAMAHA

www.yamaha.com

MODEL#	W/RW/READ	INTERFACE	ACCESS	CACHE	PRICE
YACRW8424SOEM	8X/4X/24X	SCSI	140MS	4096K	\$219
YACRW8424EOEM	8X/4X/24X	ATAPI	140MS	4096K	\$199
YACRW8424E	8X/4X/24X	ATAPI	140MS	4096K	\$209
YACRW8424S	8X/4X/24X	SCSI	140MS	4096K	\$254

SONY

MODEL#	SPEED/TRANS	INTERFACE	ACCESS	CACHE	PRICE
SY48XIDE	48X/7200KB	ATAPI	85MS	128K	\$40
SYCRX140E/CH	8X/4X/32X	ATAPI	150MS	4096K	\$199
SYCRX140S/CH	8X/4X/32X	SCSI	150MS	4096K	\$227
SYCRX145E/CH	10X/4X/32X	ATAPI	150MS	4096K	\$249

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3Com

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3C3595	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 OEM/WIN	\$27
3C3594	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 OEM/VOICE	\$30
3C2975	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 OEM/NO VOICE	\$34
3C2974	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 OEM/VOICE	\$32
3C2977	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 OEM/NON WIN	\$53
3C2976	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 OEM/NON WIN	\$56

CREATIVE

www.creative.com

CLDI5655	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 VOICE	\$24
CLDI5660	56 KBPS DATA/14.4kbps FAX INT PCI V.90 NON WIN	\$24

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www.viewsonic.com

VIE651	15"	28DP	1024 X 768	\$152
VIE655	15"	28DP	1280 X 1024	\$159
VIG653	15"	28DP	1280 X 1024	\$187
VIM50	15"	27DP	1280 X 1024	\$172
VIGA655	15"	27DP	1280 X 1024	\$207
VIE771	17"	27DP	1280 X 1024	\$214
VIG773	17"	26DP	1280 X 1024	\$284
VIGS771	17"	27DP	1280 X 1024	\$287
VIM70	17"	27DP	1280 X 1024	\$272
VIGT775	17"	25DP	1600 X 1280	\$339
VIGA771	17"	27DP	1280 X 1024	\$369
VIPT775	17"	25DP	1600 X 1280	\$449
VIE790	19"	26DP	1600 X 1200	\$352
VIPS790	19"	25DP	1600 X 1280	\$487
VIG790	19"	26DP	1600 X 1280	\$489
VIPF790	19"	25DP	1600 X 1280	\$462
VIG810	21"	25DP	1600 X 1280	\$764
VIP810	21"	25DP	1600 X 1200	\$839
VIP815	21"	25DP	1600 X 1440	\$879
VIMB110	21"	26DP	1600 X 1280	\$939
VIP817	21"	25DP	2048 X 1536	\$1439
VIVPA150	LCD MONITOR 15" VIEWABLE	1024 X 768		\$1149
VIVPD150	LCD MONITOR 15" VIEWABLE	1024 X 768		\$1169
VIVG180	LCD MONITOR 18.1" VIEWABLE	1280 X 1024		\$3249

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RETE555	15"	28DP	1280 X 1024	\$126
RETE770	17"	28DP	1280 X 1024	\$176
RETE786	17"	26DP	1280 X 1024	\$199
RETE988	19"	26DP	1600 X 1200	\$297

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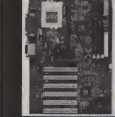
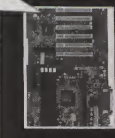
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KA7\$179	P299-B\$115	EPOX	6LM7A\$79	S2-DGR\$478	370SED\$138	S1598 1MB\$108
VA6\$95	P2-B-B\$145	EP.7 KXA\$152	INTEL	S2-DGU\$535	370DL3\$589	S1598 2MB\$135
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PoX EP-MVP3C2	MB5406	VIA Apollo MVP3	512	384	3	Award		UltraDMA/66	4	2	1	Baby AT	2 Yrs.	\$83	\$142	\$168	\$143
PoX EP-MVP3G5	MB5405	VIA Apollo MVP3	2048	384	3	Award		UltraDMA/66	5	2	1	ATX	2 Yrs.	\$108	\$167	\$193	\$168
IC VA-503+	MB5211	VIA Apollo MVP3	1024	512	2	4	Award		3	3	1	Baby AT	1 Yr.	\$75	\$134	\$160	\$135
Line VA7-AV	MB5300	VIA Apollo MVP4	512	768	3	Award	AC-97	UltraDMA/66	5	2		ATX	3 Yrs.	\$89	\$148	\$174	\$149
huttle HOT-591P	MB5611	VIA Apollo MVP3	512	256	2	2	Award		3	3	1	Baby AT	1 Yr.	\$78	\$137	\$163	\$138
yan S1590S Trinity 100AT	MB5006	VIA Apollo MVP3	1024	384	3	2	Award		4	4	1	Mini AT	3 Yrs.	\$96	\$155	\$181	\$156

Slot A

|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

Socket A

	Part #	Chip Set	Max Mem (MB)	168-pin DIMM Sockets	Flash BIOS	Bus Frequency	Integrated Controller	PCI Slots	ISA Slots	AGP Slot	Form Factor	Manufacturer's Warranty	Motherboard Only	W/AMD Duron™ 600MHz	W/AMD Duron™ 650MHz	W/AMD Duron™ 700MHz	W/AMD Athlon™ 700MHz with Enhanced Cache	W/AMD Athlon™ 800MHz with Enhanced Cache	W/AMD Athlon™ 850MHz with Enhanced Cache	W/AMD Athlon™ 900MHz with Enhanced Cache	W/AMD Athlon™ 950MHz with Enhanced Cache	W/AMD Athlon™ 1000MHz with Enhanced Cache
SUS A7V	MB7704	VIA Apollo KT133	1536	3	Award	200/133	UltraDMA/100	5	1	1	ATX	1 Yr.	\$189	\$272	\$289	\$319	\$364	\$409	\$474	\$514	\$614	\$759
PoX EP-8KTA	MB7851	VIA Apollo KT133	768	3	Award	200/133	UltraDMA/66	6	1	1	ATX	2 Yr.	\$139	\$222	\$239	\$269	\$314	\$359	\$424	\$464	\$564	\$709
IC AZ11	MB7402	VIA Apollo KT133	1536	3	Award	200/133	UltraDMA/66	5	1	1	ATX	1 Yr.	\$139	\$222	\$239	\$269	\$314	\$359	\$424	\$464	\$564	\$709
Microstar K7T Pro	MB7203	VIA Apollo KT133	1536	3	Award	200/133	UltraDMA/66	5	1	1	ATX	1 Yr.	\$159	\$242	\$259	\$289	\$334	\$379	\$444	\$484	\$584	\$729

Slot 1

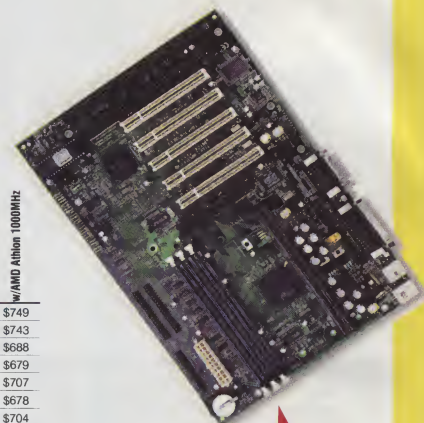
BIT BE6-II	MB6508	Intel 440BX	768	3	Award		UltraDMA/66	5	1	1	ATX	1 Yr.	\$138	\$338	\$373	N/A	\$428	\$443	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
BIT VA6	MB6509	VIA Apollo Pro 133	768	3	Award	AC-97	UltraDMA/66	5	2	1	ATX	1 Yr.	\$84	\$284	\$319	\$319	\$374	\$389	\$504	\$694	\$904	N/A	N/A
BIT VT6X4	MB6510	VIA Apollo Pro 133A	768	3	Award	AC-97	UltraDMA/66	5	2	1	ATX	1 Yr.	\$105	\$305	\$340	\$340	\$395	\$410	\$525	\$715	\$925	N/A	N/A
SUS P2B-DS (Dual)	MB6707	Intel 440BX	1024	4	Award			4	2	1	ATX	1 Yr.	\$494	\$694	\$729	N/A	\$784	\$799	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$894	\$1334
SUS P3B-F	MB6720	Intel 440BX	1024	4	Award			6	1	1	ATX	1 Yr.	\$138	\$338	\$373	N/A	\$428	\$443	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SUS P3V4X	MB6723	VIA Apollo Pro 133A	1024	4	Award		UltraDMA/66	6	1	1	ATX	1 Yr.	\$121	\$321	\$356	\$356	\$411	\$426	\$541	\$731	\$941	N/A	N/A
PoX EP-6VBA2	MB6855	VIA Apollo Pro 133A	768	3	Award	AC-97	UltraDMA/66	4	2	1	ATX	2 Yrs.	\$108	\$308	\$343	\$343	\$398	\$413	\$528	\$718	\$928	N/A	N/A
Intel L440GX+ (Dual)	MB6917	Intel 440GX	2048	4	Intel/Phoenix	Adaptec 2-Ch U2W	6	1		ATX	3 Yrs.	\$549	\$749	\$784	N/A	\$839	\$854	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$949	\$1389	
Intel SE440BX-2 "Seawite"	MB6921	Intel 440BX	768	3	Intel/Phoenix			4	2	1	ATX	3 Yrs.	\$117	\$317	\$352	N/A	\$407	\$422	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
huttle AV64	MB6309	VIA Apollo Pro 133A	768	3	Intel/Phoenix		UltraDMA/66	5	2	1	ATX	1 Yr.	\$93	\$293	\$328	\$328	\$383	\$398	\$513	\$703	\$913	N/A	N/A
superMicro P6DGU (Dual)	MB6122	Intel 440GX	2048	4	AMI	Adaptec U2W	5	2	1	ATX	1 Yr.	\$474	\$674	\$709	N/A	\$764	\$779	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$874	\$1314	
superMicro P6SBA	MB6120	Intel 440BX	768	3	AMI			4	3	1	ATX	1 Yr.	\$99	\$299	\$334	N/A	\$389	\$404	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
superMicro P6SBU	MB6128	Intel 440BX	1024	4	AMI	Adaptec U2W	4	3	1	ATX	1 Yr.	\$335	\$535	\$570	N/A	\$625	\$640	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
yan S1834 Tiger 133 (Dual)	MB6020	VIA Apollo Pro 133A	2048	4	Award		UltraDMA/66	6	1	1	ATX	3 Yrs.	\$169	\$369	\$404	\$404	\$459	\$474	\$589	\$779	\$989	\$569	\$1009
yan S1854 Trinity 400	MB6018	VIA Apollo Pro 133A	768	3	Award		UltraDMA/66	6	1	1	ATX	3 Yrs.	\$106	\$306	\$341	\$341	\$396	\$411	\$526	\$716	\$926	N/A	N/A

Socket 370

	MB	C	S	M	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E
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Slot 2

Part Number	Chip Set	Maximum Memory (MB)	168-pin DIMM Sockets	Flash BIOS	Integrated Audio	Integrated Video	Integrated Controller	Integrated Networking	PCI Slots	ISA Slots	AGP Slot	Form Factor	Manufacturer's Warranty	Motherboard Only	W/Intel® Pentium III® 500MHz	W/Intel® Pentium III® 512K	W/Intel® Pentium III® 550MHz	W/Intel® Pentium III® 600MHz	W/Intel® Pentium III® 650MHz	W/Intel® Pentium III® 700MHz	W/Intel® Pentium III® 750MHz	W/Intel® Pentium III® 800MHz	W/Intel® Pentium III® 850MHz	W/Intel® Pentium III® 900MHz	W/Intel® Pentium III® 950MHz	W/Intel® Pentium III® 1000MHz	W/Intel® Pentium III® 1000MHz	W/Intel® Pentium III® 1000MHz	W/Intel® Pentium III® 1000MHz		
superMicro S2DL3	MB6156	ServerWorks LE	4096	4	AMI		Adaptec Ultra160	Intel 82552	6	1		ATX	1 Yr.	\$676	\$1776	\$3006	\$5016	\$2876	N/A	\$2076	\$3026	\$3476	N/A								
superMicro S2QR6	MB6190	ServerWorks HE	16384	16	AMI		Adaptec 2-Ch Ultra160	Intel 82559	8			SWTX	1 Yr.	\$2732	\$3832	\$5062	\$7072	\$4932	\$7132	\$4132	\$5082	\$5532	\$8332								



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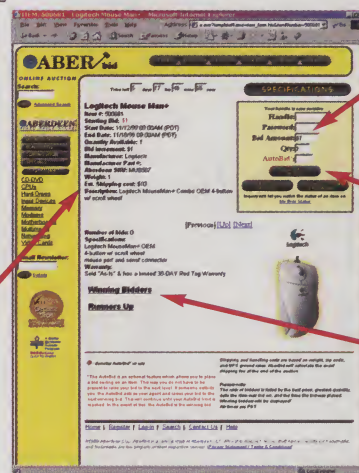
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WORKSTATIONS

ABERDEEN SLAYMORE D80G AMD ATHLON™ PROCESSOR 1000MHz HIGH-OCTANE GAMING

- ABIT KA7-100 Motherboard with VIA Apollo KX133 Chipset and 200MHz FSB w/SOFT MENU III
- 200MHz Alpha™ EV6 Bus
- 128KB L1 cache, 512KB L2 cache
- 256MB Kingmax TinyBGA PC133 SDRAM Memory (768KB Max)
- ASUS AGP-V7700 GeForce2 GTS Pure 4X AGP w/ 32MB DDR SGRAM
- IBM Deskstar 45GXP 45GB 8.5ms 7200rpm Ultra ATA/100 Hard Drive with 2048KB Buffer
- ViewSonic PF790 PerfectFlat (Trinitron) 19" (18") 25 Aperture Grille Pitch 1600@77Hz Monitor
- Shuttle SDVD-101 10X DVD-ROM / 40X CD-ROM Drive
- Creative Sound Blaster Live! PCI Sound Card
- Creative PC Works FourPointSurround FPS2000 5-Piece Digital Shielded Speaker System
- LS-120 120MB / 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- SmartLink 56K V90 PCI Voice Faxmodem
- SmartLink 10/100 PCI Ethernet Network Card
- Addonics 6890A 300W Middle Tower: 7 Drive Bays 1 External 3.5" (1 Used) / 2 Internal 3.5" (1 Used) 4 External 5.25" (1 Used)
- Logitech MouseMan USB Wheel Mouse
- Logitech Internet Keyboard
- MS Windows 98 Preinstalled, CD-ROM Included

ATHLON PROCESSOR 1000MHz **\$3299**

ATHLON PROCESSOR 800MHz **\$2599**

ABERDEEN LOCH NESS D45G INTEL® PENTIUM® III PROCESSOR 933MHz SPEED DEMON

- ABIT SE6 Motherboard with Intel 815E AGPset and 66/100/133MHz FSB w/SOFT MENU II
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- 128MB Kingmax TinyBGA PC133 SDRAM Memory (768KB Max)
- Leadtek GeForce256 DDR AGP4X 32MB DDR SDRAM
- IBM Deskstar 30GXP 30GB 8.5ms 7200rpm Ultra ATA/100 Hard Drive with 2048KB Buffer
- Tatung C782R 17" (15.9"). 25mm 1600@77Hz Monitor
- Shuttle SDVD-101 10X DVD-ROM / 40X CD-ROM Drive
- Creative Sound Blaster Live! PCI Sound Card
- Creative PC Works FourPointSurround FPS2000 5-Piece Digital Shielded Speaker System
- Teac 3 1/2" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- SmartLink 56K V90 PCI Voice Faxmodem
- SmartLink 10/100 PCI Ethernet Network Card
- Addonics 3890A 250W Middle Tower: 6 Drive Bays 1 External 3.5" (1 Used) / 2 Internal 3.5" (1 Used) 3 External 5.25" (1 Used)
- Logitech First Mouse w/scroll wheel
- Logitech Internet Keyboard
- MS Windows 98 Preinstalled, CD-ROM Included

PENTIUM III PROCESSOR **\$2199**

PENTIUM III PROCESSOR **\$1779**

CELERON PROCESSOR **\$1649**

ABERDEEN INVERNESS D33 AMD K6™-2 PROCESSOR 550MHz FAMILY SYSTEM

- EPoX EP-MVP3G2 Motherboard with VIA Apollo MVP3 Chipset and 100MHz Frontside System Bus
- 1024KB Pipelined Burst L2 cache
- 128MB Kingmax TinyBGA PC100 SDRAM Memory (384KB Max)
- ATI RAGE FURY PRO VIVO AGP4X 32MB SDRAM w/Video-In and Video-Out
- Western Digital WD307AA 30.7GB 5400rpm 9.5ms UltraATA/66 Hard Drive with 2048KB Buffer
- Tatung C782R-25 17" (15.9"). 25mm 1600@77Hz Monitor
- Shuttle SDVD-101 10X DVD-ROM / 40X CD-ROM Drive
- Creative Sound Blaster Live! PCI Sound Card
- Midland MLI-480 3-Piece Speaker System with 2x6W Satellites and 1x18W Wooden Subwoofer
- Teac 3 1/2" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- SmartLink 56K V90 PCI Voice Faxmodem
- Super Mini Tower 250W ATX: 7 Drive Bays 2 External 3.5" (1 Used) / 2 Internal 3.5" (1 Used) 3 External 5.25" (1 Used)
- Logitech First Mouse w/scroll wheel
- Logitech Internet Keyboard
- MS Windows 98 Preinstalled, CD-ROM Included

K6-2 PROCESSOR 550MHz **\$1279**

K6-2 PROCESSOR 500MHz **\$1249**

ABERDEEN SERVER S28U INTEL® PENTIUM® III PROCESSOR 800MHz DUAL PROCESSING

- SuperMicro P6DBX Motherboard with Intel 440BX AGPset and 100MHz Frontside System Bus
- Dual Processor Capable
- 256KB On-Die L2 Cache
- 256MB Corsair ECC CAS Latency 2 SDRAM PC100 Memory (1024MB Max)
- Quantum Atlas V QM336700XC-LW 36.7GB 7200rpm 6.3ms Ultra160 SCSI Hard Drive with 2048KB Buffer
- Adaptec AIC-7890 Ultra2 SCSI Controller
- Pine PT5965 AGP Graphic Accelerator with Cirrus Logic GD5465 and 4MB RAMBUS
- Toshiba XM-6702B 48X Max Variable CD-ROM
- 3Com Fast Ethernet XL TX 10/100 PCI Adapter
- Teac 3 1/2" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- Server Tower 11 Drive Bays: 1 External 3.5" (1 Used) / 2 Internal 3.5" (1 Used) / 7 External 5.25" (1 Used) / 1 Internal 5.25" (0 Used)
- 300W ATX v2.01 UL Power Supply
- Acer 104-key Keyboard, Logitech Wheel Mouse
- MS Windows 2000 Server w/5 Client Access Licenses
- 7 Expansion Slots: 4 PCI Slots (2 Used) / 3 ISA Slots (0 Used) / 1 AGP (0 Used) Slot

PENTIUM III PROCESSOR **\$3499**

PENTIUM III PROCESSOR **\$3399**

PENTIUM III PROCESSOR **\$3199**

ABERDEEN INVERNESS W36X PENTIUM® III XEON™ PROCESSOR 256-BIT GRAPHICS

- SuperMicro SZD13 Motherboard with ServerWorks ServerSet III LE chipset and 100/133MHz Frontside System Bus
- Dual Processor Capable
- 2048 / 1024KB ECC Integrated L2 cache
- 512MB Corsair CAS Latency 2 SDRAM PC100 Memory (4096MB Max)
- Seagate Cheetah 73 ST173404 73.4GB 5.6ms 10000rpm Ultra160 SCSI LVD 4096KB Buffer
- Adaptec AIC-7892 Ultra160 SCSI LVD Controller
- 3Dlabs Oxygen GVX210 - AGP Graphic Accelerator with Dual 3Dlabs Gint R3 rasterizers and Gamma G2 geometry and 256-bit 64MB SGRAM frame buffer memory and ability to manipulate up to 256MB of textures in a single session
- ViewSonic P817 Xtreme Monitor™ 21" (20") 26mm d 2048x1536@85Hz Monitor with USB
- Toshiba XM-6702B 48X Max Variable CD-ROM
- Integrated Intel 10/100 Ethernet Adapter
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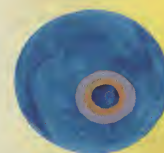
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